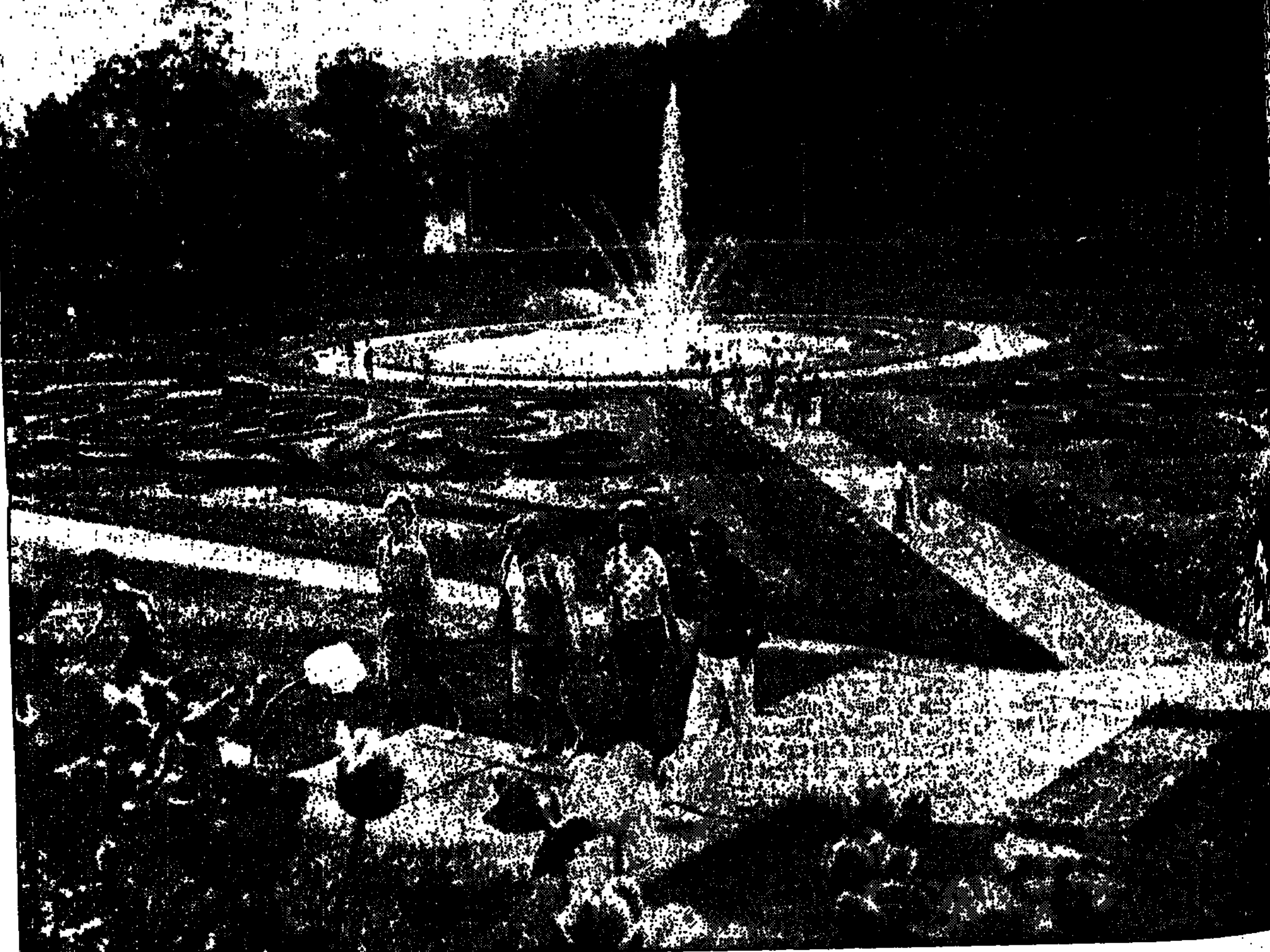
# Parks in G⸺ermany

Is Germany a country of parks as well? Indeed it is. There is the magnificent Englischer Garten in Munich, the blossoming gardens around the river Alster in Hamburg, the flower beds of the German Federal Garden Show in the capital, Bonn, situated on the Rhine, and over a thousand other parks including whole forests. Again and again the landscape thickens to a park. Where a park transcends the ⸺ers of a town and takes over the woody hills both architects and gardeners sail with the wind. A good example is the Gruga Park in Essen, in the Ruhr area: it was laid out in 1929 and comprises waterworks, a botanic garden and exhibition halls. Or the Wilhelmshoehe mountain park at Kassel: in its midst is the residence built in 1786 which was temporarily occupied by Napoleon III. Or Ludwigsburg on the Neckar wi⸺ baroque palace and park and a fairy-tale garden. The beautiful p⸺ on the Island of Mainau on Lake Constance, on the other hand, ⸺ a different kind: here the Swede⸺ Count Bernadotte looks after hi⸺ gardens with Mediterranean veg⸺tation. Why not make a tour thr⸺ the parks of Germany?



Ludwigsburg

Gruga-Park/Essen

# The German Tribune




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## Schmidt outlines concept for Middle East

⸺onn's Middle East policy statement ⸺noted in no uncertain terms that ⸺ Arabia expects its allies to lend a ⸺ing hand and cooperate in security.

⸺iyadh, it said, needs help in consoli⸺ing its defence capacity in view of ⸺et military activities in its part of ⸺ world.

Only by providing assistance in the ⸺m of permitting the export of Leop⸺ tanks to Saudi Arabia could Bonn ⸺pe to avert political and economic ⸺mage to ties with its major Arab oil ⸺pplier.

This, at least, was the gist of what the ⸺ancellor had to say to the Bundestag ⸺ the subject.

It was the first time Herr Schmidt ⸺d outlined in public a concept of ⸺mprehensive political, economic and ⸺litary cooperation with Saudi Arabia ⸺d the United Arab Emirates.

He enumerated the Arab motives for ⸺manding partnership over and above ⸺ere *economic* cooperation.

He also explained why Germany and ⸺ope had reason to be interested in ⸺ comprehensive Arab offer.

By and large, of course, German pub⸺ opinion already realised what, in the ⸺al analysis, was at stake in connection ⸺th the controversial sale of German ⸺ks to Saudi Arabia.

But the Chancellor had previously ⸺pt his views to himself, although in ⸺w of the risk of Soviet preponderance ⸺ Europe and the Middle East he might ⸺sonably have been expected to feel ⸺ll-disposed towards Arab wishes.

On this occasion too, however, he still took care to avoid taking the lead. While calling on the Bundestag to show a sense of responsibility he was chary of stating a clear personal view on the arms deal.

So the Bonn Bundestag session turned out to be the didactic drama of a head of government whose leeway had been reduced to the limit of the tolerable by his own political party.

Small wonder the CDU-CSU Opposition, while taking a benevolent view of what appeared to be emerging as Chancellor Schmidt's Middle East policy line, found ample opportunity of pointing out the disadvantages of his hesitant and circuitous approach.

Many instances were cited in support of the claim that support within the SPD for the Security policy pursued by Helmut Schmidt and Hans-Dietrich Genscher was dwindling.

Herr Genscher made a point of reiterating his keen commitment to Nato and to stepping up the country's defence contribution.

What the policy statement failed to mention was also worth noting. There was not the slightest reference to the Arab-Israeli conflict or to Palestinian self-determination, for instance.

There was not a word against Israeli policies either that went over and above the considerate attitude shown in recent years. There was indeed nothing, Herr Schmidt noted, to warrant the outcry there had been in Israel.

It was gratifying to see the Chancellor try to clarify the situation without just shabbily accepting the insults levelled at Bonn by Mr Begin.

He showed appreciation of peace endeavours so far undertaken, especially peace bids by the United States.

Deliverance came, however, from Opposition leader Helmut Kohl, who impressively countered Mr Begin's personal attack on Herr Schmidt.

Friendship between Germany and Israel must not be allowed to suffer from harsh words spoken by a single political leader, he said.

*Peter Hopen*

(Nordwest Zeitung, 8 May 1981)

## IN THIS ISSUE





Bangladeshi president Major General Ziaur Rahman and his wife greeted in Bonn by President Karl Carstens and Frau Carstens. (Photo: Sven Simon)

## Bangladesh leader Zia, soldier and politician, visits Bonn

When Ziaur Rahman came to power in Bangladesh in November 1975 after a succession of coups, few felt he stood a long-term chance.

The problems his country faced were too great, the politics too turbulent.

This month Major-General Zia, still in charge, visited the Federal Republic of Germany.

He conferred in Bonn with Chancellor Schmidt, Foreign Minister Genscher and Economic Cooperation Minister Offergeld.

From Bonn, Zia and his party went on to Hamburg, Cologne and Ludwigshafen.

Before its independence in 1971, Bangladesh was neglected and exploited as a distant province of Pakistan. Then it bled to death in civil war.

Under the leadership of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founder of Bangladesh, it seemed incapable of concerting its efforts towards peaceful reconstruction.

In the development aid context Bangladesh was, moreover, rated a basket case, a textbook example of a country abjectly dependent on alms.

Yet Zia, a hero of the war of independence (in March 1971, as a major in Pakistan's East Bengal Regiment, he proclaimed the independence of Bangladesh over Radio Chittagong), seemed to gain stature with the magnitude of the problems he faced.

As a man of the centre he was initially backed by both right-wingers and left-wing revolutionaries. Cautiously but with determination he soon set out to consolidate his own position and isolate extremists at both ends of the political spectrum.

From deputy martial law administrator he went on to become military leader and head of state, progressing from the role of strongman in the background to that of his country's overt leader.

He also embarked on the process of democratisation. He and his newly-formed Bangladesh National Party were first endorsed in a 1977 referendum, then in free elections and in 1979 in parliamentary elections.

Alongside this political consolidation Bangladesh, under his leadership, embarked on an ambitious programme of economic development concentrated initially on agricultural improvements.

Food production has been considerably increased and the country's shattered infrastructure restored and expanded.

He refers to Bangladeshi nationalism as his party's ideological programme.

A hard worker, popular with the masses and personally above any suspicion of corruption, the former military ruler has emerged as a figure of hope.

But BNP members increasingly seem to be carpet-baggers, a problem that proved the undoing of Sheikh Mujibur.

*Jan Friese*

(Handelsblatt, 5 May 19⸺)

## Berlin poll stalemate

Right from the first computer forecast there was little doubt that the ⸺ult of the West Berlin elections ⸺uld be stalemate.

As had been both expected and feared ⸺ither the outgoing Social and Free ⸺mocratic coalition nor the Christian ⸺mocrats, in opposition since 1968, ⸺ned a clear majority.

This outcome was by no means coin⸺ental. It was the consequence of po⸺ical developments.

SPD and FDP were given their deserts ⸺ running the city in a slapdash slo⸺nly manner. Not even Hans-Jochen ⸺gel, called in from Bonn to restore ⸺ coalition's fortunes, was able to off⸺ the trend.

The CDU, on the other hand, has increased its share of the vote steadily since 1963 and proved most successful, but CDU leader Richard von Weizsäcker failed to convert his opponents' weakness into a working majority.

Voters who were reluctant to transfer their allegiance to him may well have felt the CDU too was very much part of the jobs-for-the-boys network.

Like the Social and Free Democrats, the Christian Democrats have also had to import many of their leaders from the Federal Republic.

The Alternative List, representing left-wingers and ecologists, outpolled the Free Democrats and will shortly be represented as Berlin members of he Bonn Bundestag.

Their showing must surely be a lesson all three major parties would do well to take to heart.

By virtue of their poll showing they have already ensured that Berlin must muddle along as hitherto, either until fresh elections are called or, perhaps, until Christian and Free Democrats join forces.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 11 May 1981)

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

# Concern over the growing chasm of misunderstanding

Many Germans, including Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, and many Jews in all parts of the world have for some time been deeply perturbed over the chasm of misunderstanding between peoples.

The fact that Israeli Prime Minister Begin has seen fit to use Schmidt's military service in World War II as a pretext to link him with Nazi crimes, along with the fact that Foreign Minister Shamir blames Schmidt for having represented German interests during his visit to Riyadh, (saying that any cooperation with Saudi Arabia contributes to "completing what the Nazis set out to do") gives rise to the question of whether these accusations have not caused an irreparable break.

The startled reactions by German politicians of all parties in the Bundestag show that the attacks have wounded not only Schmidt but all democratic forces in Germany.

Begin's temper tantrums — probably motivated by the Israeli election campaign, at least in part — are only the nadir of a development that has been in the making for some time.

Bonn's efforts to promote the Camp David peace process through European initiatives have met with Jerusalem's mistrust and rejection from the very beginning.

The Germans were denied the moral right to ponder ways and means of bringing about a Middle East peace: and all good intentions were brushed aside with the accusation that can best be summed up as: You talk of peace and mean oil.

The official Israeli line of argument has never accepted the fact that the Middle East conflict is an insurmountable obstacle to the solution of difficult and explosive world problems and that the energy crisis not only saps the economic potential of the industrial nations but could ultimately lead to a world-wide economic disaster with Third World destabilisation and the very real danger of deathly conflicts in the struggle for survival.

Jerusalem has also closed its eyes to the fact that such a development would jeopardise the very assistance to which Israel owes its survival.

It was the ultimate objective of the Venice summit to avert these dangers and to defuse the Middle East conflict by bringing about a softening of the positions in both camps and thus rendering the Palestinian issue negotiable.

It is in this light that the statement regarding the Palestinian's right (which should be taken for granted anyway) to decide themselves on their representation in future negotiations and the aims of these negotiations must be seen.

The same applies to the attempt to involve the Arab nations in a responsible dialogue in the course of which their true interests would crystalise and become more understandable even to them.

Bonn has never questioned the fact that a negotiated settlement must be acceptable to all parties in the conflict — and that naturally includes Israel and its right to live within secure and recognised borders.

Saudi Arabia, which Begin regards as the leader of the Arab campaign against his country, is in reality one of the moderate forces of the Arab camp and its leadership has demonstrated restraint and international responsibility ever since the oil crisis began.

The Riyadh talks have reaffirmed the Chancellor's view that Saudi Arabia is a major stability factor, pursuing a policy of moderation a policy of moderation that should be emulated by all in view of the current international situation. This applies, so far as Saudi Arabia is concerned, regionally, internationally and above within the non-aligned camp.

Like Israel, Saudi Arabia has proved itself a "country of the free world". This assessment of the international situation tallies with that of the West and brings Riyadh rather close to the "strategic consensus" which Washington would like to make the basis of its future stabilisation policy in the Middle East.

This idea, which Bonn supports, has resulted in the suggestion to the parties to the Middle East conflict to review their positions and motivations.

This also applies for those German friends of the Israelis who, for understandable reasons, have adopted Jerusalem's position and are therefore prone to excuse such dangerous and misguided actions as Begin's settlements and Jerusalem policy and the bombs dropped on Lebanon — bombs which frequently kill women and children.

In fact, these people promote the isolation of Israel.

In the TV broadcast that triggered Begin's ire, Schmidt spoke of a tragedy of Grecian proportions inasmuch as the first Jewish state in two thousand years was in danger of foundering on the ... that the opposing parties in the ... did not even recognise each other as discussion partners.

The Chancellor added: "I wish ... Jews from the bottom of my heart ... their state should not be jeopardised ... a policy that lacks in farsightedness".

This is neither arrogant nor ... simply the words of a worried friend ... Nahum Goldmann (the head of ... Diaspora Jews whom Schmidt ... admires) could confirm to Begin.

Nor was it arrogant and ... Schmidt to have rejected Begin's ... Testament and high handed claim ... the Nazi crimes (which after all ... not only directed against the Jews ... posed a special obligation towards ... on the Germans of this and all ... generations.

Only within a framework of ... which Bonn has made in guiding ... ciple of its Israel policy can ... and frank discussion flourish. Any ... cy of moral blackmail can only ... structive.

Above all, such a polhcy is ... able to Germany's young who ... fault of their own, have been ... the web of the consequences of ... crimes. But this also applies to a large ... of today's older generation who, like ... of the young, have always recognised ... responsibility.

German-Israeli reconciliation ... a chance and remains a major ... But it is placed in jeopardy when ... leaders demand that the German ... should accept all Knesset decisions ... right or wrong.

There has never been a more ... state on German soil than the Federal Republic.

The new Germany's morality is ... peace and reconciliation — ... that guide its foreign policy world-wide ... including the Middle East.

It is a cautious policy which does ...

Continued on page 6

# Nato conference restores impression of unity

Outwardly at least the Nato conference in Rome has conveyed the impression that unity within the Alliance has been restored.

But the outcome in not as satisfactory as Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and the Chancellor depicted publicly.

US Secretary of State Haig and Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko won't meet until September (and then only on the periphery of the UN where they would have met anyway) to discuss the timing and procedure for talks on medium-range missiles. The Europeans wanted thes talks to begin immediately.

The whole thing is now postponed until the end of the year — providing of course the talks don't bog down in determining the agenda and the controversial question as to whether the US rockets already stationed in and around Europe should be included.

The fact that Nato has rejected as "completely unacceptable" the Soviet proposal of a moratorium on the stationing of medium-range missiles also won't make it easier to get down to brass tacks.

Moscow would have to disprove the Western objection that such a moratorium would block the Western mobilisation programme.

The second Nato reservation also causes scepticism. If the SS20 rockets that are now targeted on Europe were to be withdrawn to positions east of the Urals as a result of a moratorium, their accuracy would be greatly and pssibly decisively reduced due to the greater distance.

Even more questionable than the postponement and the rigid no to a deployment freeze is the fact that Washington still makes its willingness to negotiate (which now applies to the Alliance as a whole) contingent on Moscow's "good conduct" — not only towards Poland but world-wide as well.

And since it is the Americans who will be negotiating it will ultimately depend on what they consider good conduct.

The role of Afghanistan in this context remains unclear. Nato's offer of talks and President Reagan's letter to Brezhnev were forthcoming despite the Soviet Union's continued occupation of that country.

But will Washington be able to negotiate over an extended period without losing face if the Kremlin ignores the latest Nato demand to withdraw from Afghanistan as well?

What is even more unpleasant to Europe ist the fact that the signal from Rome or indeed the change brought about by the resolutions of the conference would entail a considerable price and that the modernisation decision would remain unaffected unless a miracle happens.

The Rome communiqué and statements by Genscher show that prospects of reducing the number of medium-range missiles in Europe through negotiation are slim.

Commenting on the announcement that, preparatory to negotiations, Nato would review the threat posed by the Soviet missiles, Herr Gensher said that under no circumstances would more than the already agreed upon 572 medium-range weapons be stationed in Western Europe.

The communiqué stresses that, in view of the growing Soviet threat, the modernisation of Nato's medium-range potential in Europe has become more important than ever that that it provide the only realistic basis for a control of these weapons.

Secretary of State Haig told the press that the Alliance was now unanimous regarding the stationing of the missiles.

What "miracles" could now still put the brakes on Nato modernisation or make it less threatening?

For one thing, it is up to the Soviet Union to provide the European Nato members with new arguments that might convince even Washington.

But words alone are not enough.

Instead, Moscow would have to do something. For instance, scrap the older rockets which the SS20 is to replace.

Moreover, at least some of the SS20s now targeted on Europe could be moved to Central Asia.

The second miracle would not ... on such moves. There is a heated ... cussion in progress in the United States ... as to whether to station the new ... tercontinental MX missile at sea ... than on the American continent ... led to the missiles envisaged for Europe ... this would remove at least some of ... concern here.

But, pending such developments ... Europeans will have to be satisfied ... what has been achieved in ... Though it remains open to doubt ... her what has transpired is really a ... lous document", as Helmut Schmidt ... it.

It remains to be seen whether ... enough to overcome resistance ... two-track decision within the ... In any event, the issue is far from ... ed.

*Hans ...*

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 7 May ...)

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HOME AFFAIRS

# State SPD Nato vote crucial for party

The Baden-Württemberg SPD congress has taken a decision that ... well prove decisive for the ... FDP coalition.

... decided by a large majority to put a ... of the Nato modernisation-and- ... decision on the agenda of next ... national SPD congress in Munich.

... decision, taken at Aalen, a small ... in the south-west of Germany, ... some way towards making SPD ...

... question which it raises is: is the ... cellor losing his party's backing? ... dits are sniffing the air for a whiff ... palace revolution.

... hard Eppler's defiant claim to the ... dianship of the Grail and the hasty ... at of the four Bonn cabinet members hailing from Baden-Württemberg ... and the protective shield of the Bonn ... ernment highlight the state of emergency.

And then there is the unrest and ... ding rebellion in Hamburg and several local party branches, among the Jusos and now, to top it all, at the Aalen congress.

It is not only the Bonn opposition ... at feels that this might presage a ... jor bushfire that would hamstring the ... ncellor and catapult the SPD out of government (or perhaps relieve it of the burden).

The SPD has given rise to such dire forecasts quite a number of times in its recent history, but so far as the present dilemma is concerned it is safe to say that security policy does not lend itself to this type of prophecy.

The fallacy lies in the application of clichés and oversimplifications. The problem cannot be simply boiled down to the question: pro or con the two-track decision? Yet nowhere else are apprehensions and emotionalism more understandable. A popular party like the SPD would deny its very tradition and lose all flexibility if it failed to register this mood and insisted on abiding by a resolution.

Essentially, all political parties should consider it their moral duty to keep the interplay between security and arms limitation under constant review — especially pending a clear indication from Washington as to how America intends to implement the "negotiations part" of the decision.

If governments are to remain internationally calculable and predictable they must pursue a course once it is charted, as long as this appears feasible. Still, parties cannot simply content themselves with acting as menial helpers.

They must voice their doubts publicly. Another fallacy is the assumption that a bushfire is beginning in the SPD that would sweep away the decision.

Apart from the Jusos (the young members' branch of the SPD) who reject the decision, there is now also Aalen.

But the signal from Aalen can also have the effect of a call for moderation within the party. After all, a motion calling for an outright rescindment of the decision was turned down.

There is still one year before the party meets again in Munich — and much can happen within the SPD during that time. It remains to be seen whether, as a relieved Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski recently put it, the Nato resolution at the Rome conference will defuse the discussion within the party which has been both emotional and principle-oriented.

In any event, there is something curious about the situation that has arisen. The government is faced with opposition from within its larger party, while the "official opposition" goes along with the government. This being so, it would seem in order to ask whether a change of government would not the most logical conclusion to be drawn.

It is up to the SPD or, to be exact, its chairman, to refute such a contention. Willy Brandt can no longer restrict himself to acting as a cautious moderator.

He must provide party guidelines and lead the party through this discussion by building bridges to span the gap between a tortured party and its chancellor.

*Thomas Meyer*

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 6 May 1981)

# A change in routine

Chancellor Schmidt has paid his tribute to the coalition parties (SPD and FDP) by giving them a special briefing on his Middle East visit. Up to now, he has usually left it at an address to Parliament as a whole. Foreign Minister Genscher, did the same by briefing the SPD on his Nato modernisation policy and, in doing so, took some of the wind out of the SPD sails.

But what was Schmidt's real objective? His action seems to signal an important change in the distribution of power in Bonn. The days of Schmidt the *macher* seem to be over. Not only has his prestige among other friendly nations become somewhat tarnished, as some observers put it; at home, too, he has few successes to show. Even he himself considers his scope of action curtailed. There is hardly any other explanation for his changed attitude towards the coalition, in other words, the parliamentary majority.

There are even times when it seems as if important government decisions are no longer made under his direct influence but under the aegis of the speakers of the Bundestag parties.

This became particularly obvious recently when the top SPD MPs rather than the Chancellor and his government began planning the overdue adjustment of the defence budgt. The erosion of the Chancellor's authority became even more obvious in connection with the controversial supply of tanks for Saudi Arabia.

The SPD in parliament opposed such arms shipments and the Chancellor agreed, despite having more or less told the Arabs that he would comply.

The whole thing is so significant because the question as to what arms shipments should be approved or turned down is typically a matter for the government to decide, and Parliament does not usually vote on such issues in detail.

Schmidt is thus belittling his own function by saying that is was not up to him to provide guidelines regarding the "tanks for the Saudi Arabians" issue and that he considered a parliamentary majority necessary to decide the matter.

*Peter Hopen*

(Nordwest Zeitung, 6 May 1981)

# Eppler stamps personality on the conference

The party congress of the Baden-Württemberg SPD in Aalen was ... nally to become the launching pad ... the new state party chairman, Uli ...

... instead of Lang it was the departing ... Erhard Eppler who dominated the ... gress — so much so as to give rise to ... question: for how long will Eppler ... ain the actual SPD boss in Germany's south west?

Eppler is a rare specimen among ... Baden-Württemberg's politicians, mark... by intelligence, learning, industry, an ... domitable will to get his way and im... sive eloquence.

Some of the clichés that have been ... ed to him for years are totally ... g — especially those that label him ... a utopian who has taken his day... ms into politics, to the detriment of ... fellow man.

The fact is that Eppler has a calculating and planning mind, more so than ... in his line of business.

Moreover, not even Herbert Wehner is ... stubborn and authoritarian in pursuing his aims. But where Eppler differs ... is in his steadfast refusal to lose ... of the deeper meaning of politics.

In other words, Eppler's list of priorities does not give election victories top ... In fact, his own career ranges pretty ... at the bottom of the list.

There are worlds separating Eppler ... the manner in which other politicians look at the problems of our ar... ment policy, i.e. primarily from the ... point of preserving the peace ... in the coalition come what may.

Still, it would be wrong to deny that ... has both ambition and vanity. There ... much that is personal in the forces ... motivate his political drive. It gives ... great satisfaction to see his opponents (like Volker Hauff after crossing ... swords with Eppler) fall flat on ... face. Even if the electorate refuses ... go along with him, he is determined ... be proved right. The Baden-Württemberg SPD, whose leader he was until the Aalen congress, was among the few referees he recognised. There can be no doubt that he will miss this (and the same applies to the party which will miss his impressive performances on the rostrum.

There are people who have known Eppler well and have dealt with him for years who say that he does not understand people.

This is true insofar as patience and generosity have never been his forte. And many would find it easier to warm to him if he were more capable of taking a critical look at himself.

Eppler made it quite clear in Aalen that he was far from opting out of politics. It takes no great prophetic ability to forecast that next year's national SPD congress in Munich will be dominated even more than the previous one in Berlin by an Eppler-Schmidt duel. If he is to come out victorious, the Chancellor will have to come up with a few brighter ideas than did his ministers at the Aalen congress.

The attitude of the majority in Aalen on Nato modernisation was indicative of the awareness that a disastrous process is under way.

Eppler is unmatched in his ability to buttress such a mood of crisis with facts and arguments which his opponents in Bonn have failed to discuss in a rational manner.

Even though he is no longer Baden-Württemberg's SPD chairman, Erhard Eppler will have little extra time to while away. Not only is he still a member of the Baden-Württemberg State Legislature, he is also the chairman of his party's Basic Values Commission, lecturer at Berlin's Free University, author, member of the SPD Presidium and fulfils dozens of other public functions.

He is no *macher* but he is a prime mover with a great deal of power behind him. He already occupies a prominent place in his party's history, with a significance that goes far beyond Baden-Württemberg. Perhaps his opponents will understand at last that they have underestimated the feisty fighter.

*Peter Henkel*

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 10 May 1981)

The new and the old. Outgoing Baden-Württemberg SPD chairman Erhard Eppler (right) with his successor, Ulrich Lang, at the state congress in Aalen, south-west Germany. (Photo: dpa)

■ DEFENCE

# Services seek ways of increasing manpower

The Bundeswehr is considering ways of increasing its manpower. Shortages are beginning to come through as a result of the years when the birth rate was low.

Several ways of maintaining strength are being considered, among them:

- Drafting older men.
- Altering exemption requirements.
- Lowering physical fitness standards.
- Allowing civilians to do desk jobs now being done by servicemen.
- Making national serivce longer.
- Making greater use of technical innovations.
- Introducing the draft for naturalised foreign workers or their children.

A Bundeswehr workgroup is considering the possibilities.

There is, however, one major reservation that governs all ideas. They still have to be approved and passed by the political arm, and in some cases they require enabling legislation.

Moreover, the exact number of additional personnel is still uncertain due to such imponderable factors as the number of conscientious objectors and other elements.

All calculations are based on the annual requirement of about 220,000 (both draftees and enlistments).

But towards the end of the decade the potential will be below 200,000. To make matters worse, a deduction will have to be made for exemptions (for one reason or another) and men who do not meet the physical requirements.

The most obvious way of closing the gap is to draft older men than has been done hitherto plus some of those who were previously exempted but remain subject to the draft until the age of 28.

The consequence would be that the average age men in uniform would go up. And should this also include family men who are usually exempted, it is unlikely that the move will be popular.

The Bundeswehr could also lower its physical fitness criteria and so raise the number of servicemen from the present 75 per cent who are declared fit for service to 80 or even 83 per cent, as envisaged by General (retd) Christian Krause in a study commissioned by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. This would mean an additional 8,000 men in 1994.

The price would obviously be lower performance. In some areas this would be tolerable, in others it would not.

Another possibility is to reduce the number of exemptions. General Krause now estimates this at 10 per cent.

While this would theoretically improve the general fairness of the draft, in practical terms it would be a blow to those who have so far benefited from it and would be a source of dissatisfaction. Still, this "grey zone" deserves closer scrutiny.

Relief could also be provided by manipulating the personnel structure. For instance: many desk jobs now held by troopers could be done by civilians.

Estimates dating back to the early 1970s put the scope here at 12,000 men.

But, apart from other disadvantages, this solution would be costly; and if realised on a grand scale, this would change the character of the Bundeswehr as an army of draftees.

But all these measures would essentially be of a conventional nature.

A genuine change would be the extension of national service. But the consequences of such a move are incalculable from today's vantage point. They would depend on the atmosphere in domestic and foreign affairs at the time.

Another possibility worth delving into is the manner in which technical innovations (such as automation, electronic data processing and new weapons systems) could save manpower. But since such technology is complicated and costly we should not pin too much hope on this type of solution.

The last option would be truly dramatic but would require fear-reaching changes in non-military fields: the introduction of the draft for naturalised foreign workers or their children.

But to see this many-faceted problem from the vantage point of the Bundeswehr's requirements would mean putting the cart before the horse.

The same reservations apply to the volunteer service of women even though this service would be unarmed and outside combat units (for instance, in communications, logistics and medical services).

The points listed here cannot be taken as a list of priorities. Instead, each of these possible solutions is of equal value, though not all are equally realistic.

In any event, all of them must be assessed as to their political feasibility.

Still, the list makes it clear that the planners have a number of options and that it is not up to our women only to help solve the Bundeswehr dilemma.

On the other hand, it is still entirely unclear how much priority the Defence Ministry attaches to the issue of women in the Bundeswehr.

One thing is certain: for many cartoonists, feminists and bar room strategists the "woman in uniform" has become a major topic that serves as a peg for all sorts of ideas.

The Defence Ministry's approach is more businesslike but perhaps oversimplified and too much governed by the Bundeswehr's needs in terms of personnel.

Women in the Bundeswehr in the years to come (even if it were only a few thousand in functions other than that of medical doctor) could change more than just the outward appearance of the armed forces.

This is an aspect that requires a thorough evaluation — notwithstanding the positive attitude of the CDU Women's Association.

*Christian Potyka*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 5 May 1981)

# Easy on the gas pedal in manoeuvres

Reports that the Bundeswehr will not take part in Nato's autumn manoeuvres because it doesn't have the money to pay its fuel bill should not be taken seriously.

Aircraft will fly and tanks and other vehicles will roll. But there is every likelihood that mobility will be restricted in the interim to save the fuel that will be needed in the autumn.

But the shortage of fuel is only a small part of the Bundeswehr's financial woes.

Defence Minister Hans Apel will have to put up with the question whether he could not have anticipated the financial shortfall and applied for the necessary funds in time.

Even after the March defence conference behind closed doors he pacified the critics saying that all was well, notwithstanding the fact the Bundeswehr inspector-general had made it quite clear at the time that there was not enough money to meet all needs.

Has Herr Apel once more (as in the case of the Tornado) looked into the matter and come up with a clear picture at a moment he considered politically opportune?

Hans Apel is evidently well aware of the fact that his constant reports on deficits in the defence budget have been harmful to the Bundeswehr and the nation's security policy, detracting even more from the Bundeswehr's image than the most irrational disarmament advocates and leftist SPD MPs.

In providing the extra money for the Bundeswehr, Bonn should not rely primarily on tax increases but should review its subsidies and eliminate the unnecessary ones.

*Heinz-Peter Finke*

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 29 April 1981)




(Cartoon: Felix Mussil/Frankfurter Rundschau)

# Apel appeals to chaplains

DIE WELT

Defence Minister Hans Ap[el] called on Protestant Bund[eswehr] chaplains to respond with even [...] to the militants in the discussi[on of] ways and means of securing peac[e].

He told the 26the Conference [of Pro]testant Bundeswehr chaplains th[at he] did not mind if the Church and [in]dividual members commented [on the] government's defence policy. But [he] said that he did mind if such com[ment] boil down to unadulterated hatred [...]

Herr Apel predicted that the Pro[testant] Church Congress in June would [pay] particular attention to defence [...] which it could well challenge.

But "we must also defend the [...]tion of the Bundeswehr, unpertu[rbed by] critics."

He went on to say that the [...] to hatred must not be hatred.

One of the main topics at the [con]ference, which was held behind [closed] doors, was raised by Bundeswehr [Cha]plain Jürg Diegritz who said: "[Bundes]wehr soldiers consider themselves [aban]doned by their church because m[ore and] more of its representatives questi[on the] bearing of arms in the service of p[eace]."

As citizens in uniform, the cha[...] do not want to be considered as p[...] "paving the way for war" but as p[...]tors of peace who are trying to p[revent] war.

The heated public discussion on po[ssi]bilities of securing peace in conjunc[tion] with the world-wide arms race has [...] many soldiers fear for their status i[n so]ciety.

Bavarian Bundeswehr Chaplain [...]mann Wagner spoke of a lack of "[feel]ing at home" in an army governed b[y a] rigid chain of command.

Recruits, he said, are afraid of [...] away from home and estrangement f[rom] their wives or girl friends.

Many NCOs were under stress be[cause] the training time was insufficient to [im]part maturity and experience in the [lea]dership of men.

It was the function of the army [cha]plain to help "bring about more hu[mane] living conditions in the army."

Some participants in the Confe[rence] held that the "feeling of anger" p[reva]lent among many soldiers was d[ue to] "inadequate preparation for life" th[rough] parents and teachers.

School stress combined with w[ides]pread unemployment among the y[oung] and inadequate career prospects co[ntrib]ute to this feeling of insecurity.

Senior Bundeswehr Chaplain Re[...] Gramm said that this insecurity w[as re]flected in the personnel structu[re of] Protstant ministry in the Bundesw[ehr].

Twenty per cent of the posts, h[e said,] were vacant so far as full-time w[...] concerned.

Since the term of service as B[undes]wehr chaplain is restricted to be[tween] six and eight years, many minister[s fear] for their future careers in the face [of an] anticipated glut of pastors.

He blamed this development on [mis]takes in the assessment of the m[...] within the armed forces and p[...] trends among young theologians.

There were signs of a "danger[ous ...] of the sense of reality," he said.

(Die Welt, 6 May [1981])



■ PEOPLE

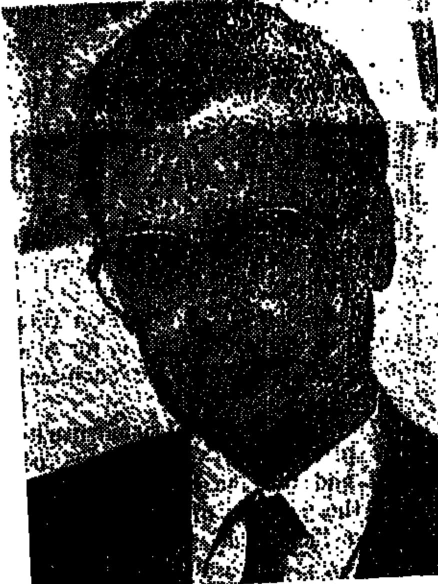
# Former first lady dies on eve of 96th birthday

Wilhelmine Lübke, wife of former President Heinrich Lübke, was a [mir]acle of vitality. Such were her stamina, fitness and staying power that the [gue]sts at the innumerable receptions [wou]ld often make the apparently inap[pro]priate comparison between her and [Kon]rad Adenauer.

Heinrich Lübke, who was ten years [you]nger than his wife, died in 1972. This [mon]th, she died, just a few days before her [96]th birthday.

Anyone who saw Wilhelmine Lübke [danc]ing the feet off partners ten years [you]nger at Bonn press balls or shrugg[ing] off the heat and humidity when she [was] the guest of the Thai monarchs [Bhum]ibol and Sirikit must have envied [her] sturdy constitution.

[She] never took holidays. Work was the [elixir] of life to her. She was a shining example to all who are afraid of growing old.



Wilhelmine Lübke (Photo: Sven Simon)

Former President Walter Scheel expressed this in a letter written to her on her 90th birthday: "You have helped regain respect and esteem for the old in our society. You have given them confidence and shown them in exemplary fashion that no one is too old. This is a remarkable achievement in itself, quite apart from your achievements as wife of President Lübke."

In 1959, Adenauer changed his mind about standing as CDU/CSU candidate for the presidency and Heinrich Lübke stood instead and was elected. It is difficult to imagine him doing this without the ambition and drive of his wife.

The same is also true of Lübke's willingness to remain in office for two periods to the constitutional limit of ten years.

Wilhelmine Lübke was never content to be merely an unassuming wife. Not even when she and her husband moved into the presidential villa Hammerschmidt and she found herself involved in a heavy round of representational duties. So she started learning languages — English, French, Italian, Spanish and even Russian — so that she act as her husband's interpreter. She started teaching herself Russian at the age of 70 and she learned to type at the age of 80.

Despite her willingness to learn, which she retained to the end, there was one world that was never part of her vocabulary: emancipation. The slogan of many generations of feminists was a foreign word to her.

Equality was never a problem for her, partly because she freed herself from total dependence and partly because she accepted the limits of conventional forms and did not try to break the nineteenth century norms by doing something deliberately "unseemly".

This explains that despite the authority she possessed — an authority of which feminists can only dream — she suffered from a trauma. She could not stand people talking about her age.

In the upper middle class world even after the First World War, it was regarded as highly extraordinary for a woman to marry a man ten years younger.

Frau Lübke, née Keuthen, came from the village of Ramsbeck in the Sauerland near the birthplace of her husband. She therefore did not mind at all — on the contrary — when so many years were unwittingly deducted from her age as to make her younger than her husband on the register — a fact which journalists discovered when she became wife of the President.

Frau Lübke never quite realised that she was in fact admired precisely because she seemed so young to all who met her. Angelika Grunenberg has described her admiringly and aptly as The Miss Marple of Diplomacy.

She was indeed.

*Eghard Mörbitz*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 5 May 1981)

Continued from page 2

hamper the Camp David process but bolsters it.

It has helped in the course of the past year to keep peace talks going even in the face of severe setbacks.

One day, this policy could prove beneficial should Egyptian-Israeli talks on the issue of Palestinian autonomy find themselves up a blind alley.

Begin, however, has embarked on a course that seriously jeopardises the tediously developed German-Israeli faith and thus the possibility of friendship — a friendship that is essential to both peoples.

*Wolf J. Bell*

(General-Anzeiger, 5 May 1981)

# Welshman elected Heidelberg district FDP leader

The Heidelberg branch of the FDP have elected a Welshman, David John Williams, as their district leader. Williams comes from Abergavenny, and has a B.Sc. in Applied Biology from London University.

The branch has 155 members from a total population of 130,000. When he was elected there were criticisms because no German could be found.

Williams did not like the atmosphere in the Heidelberger CDU. He found the SPD too ideological. So he joined the FDP, even though he had never any contacts with the British Liberals.

Williams says that German electoral system is far mor democratic than the British.

He expects to be staying in Heidelberg for a long time because of his job as freelance translator of scientific texts. In his work he uses all the technolgical aids available, including computer and teletext. He has three desks in his study, one for translating, one for book-keeping and one for his other interests, especially politics.

He didn't learnt German systematically but on the job, while working as a translator in Heidelberg. This slim, restless 32-year old seems continually under pressure, yet he goes out of his way to try to explain exactly what he is saying — highly untypical of German politicians.

In his party, Williams has far more possibilities of political influence than the ordinary citizen here has. At the Three Kings meeting he also joined the Young Democrats and became treasurer for North Baden.

He says that the Young Liberal's publications are the best possible, counterpropaganda that could be produced. Williams says that he hopes that Heidelberg will continue to enjoy its reputation as a critical branch under his leadership. He sees as confirmation of this the fact that some Heidelberg resolutions have made an impact even on the Bonn party.

Williams is convinced that with his connections he can keep left and right together. His local programme includes medium-sized company policies hitherto neglected by his party — the constitutional state, accommodation and current problems such as local transport and energy supplies.

Here and in other aspects of local policy there are clear differences between the FDP position and that of the city administration under Mayor Zundel.

The FDP chairman has never taken part in the election of a parliament. But he started his political career in 1980 with an impressive memorandum on European citizenship for the benefit of EEC-citizens residing for a long time in other countries.

Constitutionally, this would be easy enough but politically there are insurmountable obstacles. David Williams will shortly be applying for German citizenship. This means he will have to give up his British nationality. It is up to the local authorities to decide whether they want to recruit another democrat to Heidelberg.

*Erhard Becker*

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 27 April 1981)

David Williams (Photo: Ballarin)

■ ENERGY

# High-temperature reactor seen as compromise

Small high-temperature nuclear reactors have been suggested as a significant step towards supplying energy needs without excessively damaging the environment.

This type of reactor, which exists only on paper, is to be designed so that serious accident is impossible.

The suggestion is the only surprise in a study by the Advisory Council on the Environment.

So far industry has procrastinated on the reactor's development because it fears that its anticipated safety standards would hamper the licensing procedure for traditional light-water reactors.

The study, which was delayed because of its size and the delicate nature of the issue, says society should cut back on consumption and combat waste.

It calls for more efficient use of primary energy, the massive employment of district heating and the combined generating of electricity and heat.

Since all types of energy production harm the environment, says the report, and since the environment should not be polluted any more, there is no choice but to cut down on energy needs.

The report heavily criticises coal-generated energy because of excessive pollution.

There is no major method of producing energy which does not interfere with the environment. But by the same token, a survival of our industrial society and indeed of human life is unthinkable without energy.

Small wonder then that this insoluble conflict is a prominent feature of the study in which the experts were constantly faced with the necessity to choose between several evils.

The scientists who prepared the study have no sensations to offer but they shed new light on certain contexts and deserve to be heard.

None of the groupings involved in the current energy dispute have any reason to be jubilant about the study, and this applies in equal measure to ideological anti-nukes and to optimistic growth fanatics.

Operating between the fronts, the expert environmentalists who prepared the study take a middle-of-the-road course that should appear reasonable to politicians and economists, environmentalists and consumers, given the necessary goodwill.

In reviewing the various political positions in this country it would appear that the SPD is most likely to find its many energy policy resolutions echoed in the survey. However, the statements put forward by the authors of the study are clearer and more articulate.

The line of argument stands up even to the plain commonsense of laymen in terms of energy policy and technology: since all types of energy production are harmful to the environment, and since we cannot afford to pollute the environment still further, we have no choice but to cut down on our energy needs as far as possible.

Some of the recommendations have been anticipated by the Bonn government in its recently adopted programme for the development of district heating.

The professional environmentalists appeal above all to the municip power stations and industry to ste the gas in promoting the simulta generating of electricity and heat unburden the environment.

It is here that we lag far behind.

Bonn could have done a great d the past few years to promote saving measures and at the same relieve the environment if only reviewed our current energy leg as to its effectiveness.

So far, Bonn has put too much in the energy-saving effect of prices. But this imposes an undu den on the small consumer.

Only dyed-in-the-wool anti-nuke likely to have been surprised by the dy's massive criticism of coal-gen energy.

The experts point to the fa coal-operated power stations (n mention gasification and liquefa plants) continuously release large q ties of harmful pollutants.

Expert environmentalists and s tists see no either-or between al gedly evil nuclear energy and suppo good other forms of energy.

Regenerative sources of alternativ ergy cannot be adequately assessed their performance and the burden impose on the environment – at not at this stage.

In the normal course, coal is a pollutant while traditional nuclear tors impose a strain on the environ only in case of extremely severe dents. But this type of accident is extremely improbable, though sho occur the consequences would a extreme.

Both types of energy are nec and reasonable provided requireme terms of quantity are kept as lo possible.

*Wolfgang Mauersb*

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 29 April 1981)

# Panacea 'to beware of'

Poor advice remains poor advice even if it is presented to the public time and again.

And it applies to the recurring annual presentation of the "Alternative Economic Programme" of nonconformist economists who want to lick the problems of the 1980s through massive money injections to stimulate growth.

All you have to do is look across the fence to find dozens of countries that followed this recipe and that are now exerting themselves trying to clear the rubble they have created.

These so-called alternative economists operate on the assumption that the reaction to rising oil prices must be budgetary and social security expansion with which to close the demand gap for consumer goods created by the additional energy bill.

They act as if we could simultaneously pay part of out GNP to the oil sheikhs and use the same portion to finance the government which, in turn, would use that money to boost demand via juicy wage increases and stepped-up social security benefits.

The whole thing resembles a bit of sleight of hand.

But that's not all. In spite of empty public sector coffers, they call for another DM30bn worth of programmes to boost government and social infrastructure – again to be financed by borrowing.

The whole thing is to be couched in a medium term DM200bn programme, supported by a policy of ample and cheap money, high wages and, naturally, shorter working hours.

If it were implemented, such a programme could only lead to a veritable fireworks of inflation, the deutschemark would slither into new turbulences and an inflation-depreciation spiral would be set in motion.

The call for a nationalisation of the steel industry has become even louder, showing the direction in which the German economy is to be steered.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 28 April 1981)

# The oil market reacts to user restraint

The international oil market has started to react to world-wide consumer restraint.

Saudi Arabia has lowered its price for the additional oil produced to offset the shortfall created by the Iran-Iraq dispute by about $5 per bbl; and even Libya, one of the Opec hawks, might be preparing to reduce its crude prices.

The oil market the world over is in a cleft stick, and some Opec members don't mind at all.

They want those of their partners who keep hiking the prices to realise at last that the world cannot be milked at will.

It was to a large extent the high price policy of Opec that caused the global economic turbulences – a development which inevitably had to lead to energy-saving measures.

These measures have been further bolstered by voluntary economies which are well on their way to becoming second nature and replacing the former waste mentality.

Even the United States – a notorious energy waster – is tightening the energy belt as subsidies fall away.

The economy tide has thus gripped the whole of the industrial world, and even the developing countries which depend on simple energy technologies that are still oil-based have been seized by this saving drive – and not only for lack of money.

As a result of this combination of an economic slump and self-restraint in energy consumption, oil tanks are full to the brim.

The sensitive Rotterdam-Amsterdam-Antwerp market which, like a seismograph, registers all surpluses and shortages, now offers petrol and heating oil at prices far below those of domestic refineries.

The beneficiary is the consumer of light heating oil, the price of which on the free market has been falling continuously in the past few weeks.

The petrol situation is different – partly because, while consumption per vehicle has gone down considerably, the rising number of vehicles has nullified the effect. As a result, petrol consumption is either stagnating or rising slightly.

The North German market, usually shows trends a few weeks of the rest of the country, no clear differences between free and franchised filling stations – in some instances up to 9 pfennigs per litre.

Motorists have a keen nose for trends.

This means that the big oil comp will have to come up with some ideas lest their customers run to cheap competition.

Even so, it is unlikely that the p of petrol at the franchised pump wi down markedly.

The reason for this is simple. It w be disastrous for the big oil comp to buy cheaply abroad and discou the output of their own refineries home.

At a time when free markets considerably more expensive it was very domestic refineries that preve excessive price fluctuations.

Light heating oil is different – if no other reason than because its pro tion is coupled with petrol refin making for a glut in the heating oil tor.

But since the current demand for ting oil is virtually nil, the only that will make people buy is a rea able price.

It does the oil suppliers no good stuck with full heating oil tanks for they have no buyers and to that more oil will be coming their as a by product of petrol refineries.

As a result, both the big multina corporations and free dealers will little option but to make concessions the buyer.

So energy saving pays after all.

*Franz-Josef Nie*

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 28 April)

**Reduced energy consumption**





BUSINESS

# Retail giant Karstadt enters its second century

What was to develop into Europe's largest department store chain, Karstadt, was founded 100 years ago, on May 1881.

It was a time when the area comprising today's Federal Republic of Germany had a population of only 23 million and the average industrial worker earned pfennigs an hour.

It was then that Rudolph Karstadt opened his soft goods store in Wismar, Mecklenburg, with a capital of 1,000 marks and a van full of goods.

The secret of his success – he went from strength to strength and opened his first branch in Lübeck in 1884 – was the novel idea at the time of fixed prices and no credit.

This was a departure from age-old custom inasmuch as all prices used to be bargained out and the goods bought on tick.

Selling for cash only and at fixed prices had advantages for both Karstadt and his customers. He could operate on a small profit margin which meant that they could afford his goods and cash sales enabled him to have full control over his business's cash flow.

Today in the Federal Republic of Germany, with a population of more than 60 million and with industrial wages averaging DM 14.37 an hour, it is taken for granted that all goods are sold at fixed prices.

Of course, prices, too, have changed enormously. The buying power of a mark 100 years ago was close to seven times that of today's deutschemark.

While old Karstadt sold silk fabrics at marks a metre, today's buyer must expect to pay at least DM 30.

And simple everyday dress fabric which cost 30 pfennigs a metre in 1881 is now offered by Karstadt – during summer sales – at DM 1 a metre.

The original soft goods store has meanwhile developed into a chain with branches in 112 cities and a floor area of 1,245m square metres.

The range of goods – depending on the size of the branch – can be anything from 40,000 to 200,000 different items, not counting variations in size and colour.

The 64,000 staff members last year sold DM 9.6bn, worth of goods.

Adding the mail order house Neckermann and its subsidiaries, which is per cent Karstadt-owned, the concern's staff is close to 75,000 and sales last year hovered around the DM 12.6bn mark.

This makes Karstadt one of the largest retail businesses outside the United States.

But the mammoth naturally had its ups and downs. There were phases of growth and of decline.

Once, it almost became bankrupt.

Right now, all German department store chains face an uphill struggle.

Market shares have been diminishing in the past few years and sales figures have been going up so slowly as to barely offset inflation.

Prospects for the German retail trade as a whole are anything but rosy.

The population is no longer growing, the economy is stagnating and people are reluctant to spend money – all of which makes for tough competition.

Karstadt pins its hopes on diversification and specialisation such as the travel business and special furniture, fashion, do-it-yourself, record and paperback shops.

While other chains still operate on several planes – Kaufhof has its low-price subsidiary Kaufhalle and Hertie has its Bilka – Karstadt keeps a tighter rein on its subsidiaries.

And once the Neckermann group (acquired in 1976) is properly back on its feet it could well become a major asset.

But for the moment Karstadt is still to digest the huge Neckermann chunk it bit off.

The restructuring of the mail order giant alone cost a tidy billion and involved much wear and tear on the nerves.

But it was worth it and Karstadt is now tightly organised with all 155 branches operating under the one name with one head office and one central buying department.

But the individual branches are flexible and go out of their way to adapt to local conditions.

As a result, the range of goods varies from branch to branch based on the realisation that what sells in one place could well be a white elephant in another.

This localised strategy is facilitated by a subdivision into regional head offices with an average of five branches.

The head office does the buying for the branches as well and each group has only one car pool and one central stores.

Thus, for instance, the downtown Cologne branch is in charge not only of the other two branches in that city but also of branches in Wessling, Eschweiler and Gummersbach. Yet the main Cologne branch, one of the most important in the chain, is a relative newcomer.

Karstadt bought the huge department store Carl Peters GmbH on Cologne's busy Breite Strasse in 1960.

The Peters department store was Germany's largest pre-World War II emporium.

The Peters history resembles that of Karstadt. It was founded in 1891 – again as a soft goods store. The business flourished and in 1911 became a huge department store on Breite Strasse. It reached its peak in 1937, the year when the founder died. With its street frontage of 115 metres, 100 shop windows, 22 elevators and 1,200 staff members, it was regarded as a store of superlatives in its day. Having been totally destroyed during the war, the Peters department store resumed operations shortly after war's end with a staff of 56 and a floor area of 300 square metres. By 1960, when Karstadt bought the business, it had a floor area of 15,000 square metres.

The gallery in Karstadt's Stettin branch in 1916. Such luxuries are today too expensive.

Karstadt extended it still further, investing DM 45m. The Cologne Karstadt branch became exemplary for soft goods and esperts came from afar to get new inspiration.

Only seven years later, the store was again restructured and enlarged.

Today it has a floor area of 20,000 square metres and the range of goods includes 180,000 items.

Last year's sales were DM 172m with a payroll of 1,300.

Together with the Cologne group's branches, Karstadt Cologne chalked up sales of DM 255m last year, with a staff of 1,850.

But growth rates of this magnitude were not restricted to Cologne in the past-war era. They were typical of the Karstadt empire as a whole.

But then, the starting position had been extremely poor and there was obviously ample room for expansion.

Twenty-two branches, three buying departments, four factories and a recreation home for staff were confiscated in the East.

In the West, 30 of the 45 branches were either destroyed or badly damaged.

Sales in the first post-war years frequently came close to barter deals.

On 1 January 1947 the entire chain's sales area amounted to 29,000 square metres (not much more than today's downtown Cologne branch) with a staff of 4,694.

In the early 1930s, when the world was racked by the great depression, Karstadt came close to total extinction – partly because liquidity was strained to the limit due to the company's expansionist policy.

In 1931/32, only five of the branches operated at a profit.

To survive, the giant had to cut its capital from 80m to 7.6m reichsmarks; 25 of its factories had to be sold and the network of branches cut down.

The Karstadt subsidiary, EPA, was sold to a consortium of banks, but with an option to buy it back.

Creditors were also expected to make sacrifices. Banks that jumped into the breach became shareholders; and even today more than 25 per cent of the capital (now amounting to DM 360m) is held by Deutsche Bank and Commerzbank.

The banks are thus co-owners of the mamoth's DM 895m cash reserves.

Within a mere 30 years – from the 1948 currency reform to today – Karstadt once more developed into a giant.

Though the founder of the firm, Rudolph Karstadt, managed to establish 24 branches in 25 years, the big leap forward did not come until 1920 when the firm went public and merged with the Theodor Althoff KG, increasing its capital from 40m to 80m marks.

The group of companies controlled by Rudolph Karstadt AG experienced a period of dramatic growth.

EPA was founded in 1926 and all items sold by this subsidiary cost either 10, 20, 50 or 100 pfennigs.

It obviously met a need because sales in 1932, at the height of the depression, were 100m reichsmark.

But Theodor Althoff did not live to enjoy the triumph. He died in 1931, aged 72.

Even so, there is still an Althoff on the Karstadt board.

Rudolph Karstadt lived to the ripe old age of 88 and died in 1944.

*Gudrun Stümpfli*

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 30 April 1981)

# Wanted: 200,000 tradesmen to keep boom going

The trades had a record year in 1980. Though the number of firms (496,200) remained unchanged against 1979, the payroll reached the record mark of close to 4.3 million and sales soared to DM 384bn, a growth rate of 3 per cent (adjusted for inflation).

In presenting his annual report for 1980 on 4 May, the president of the Chamber of Trades, Paul Schnitker, said: "Never before in the post-war era nor at any time before the war have the trades employed so many."

Investment activity in 1980 remained buoyant, amounting to DM 15bn to DM 16bn, thus topping 1979 investments by DM 1bn.

The training of new blood also saw record figures: 703,000 apprenticeships were registered in 1980 (against 676,000 the year before).

The trades thus account for 41 per cent of training places for the 1.6 million German juveniles.

Despite the remarkable achievement of increasing the payroll in the face of more than one million unemployed, the trades still deplore the fact that they have more than 200,000 positions which they are unable to fill.

What they need is skilled bricklayers, carpenters, roofers, glazers, airconditioning engineers, cabinet makers, painters, etc.

But Herr Schnitker said that there was no reason for pessimism or resignation.

*Hartmut Geyer*

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 5 May 1981)

THE ENVIRONMENT

# Chemical fertilisers threaten ground as source of drinking water

Ground water, West Germany's main source of drinking water, is more [bad]ly polluted than pessimists had [tho]ught, according to a university study. Geologist Peter Obermann, of Bo[chu]m University, found that nitrates [from] chemical fertilisers were the main [pollu]tant.

[He] also says that the supply of self-[purif]ying elements in ground water is [limi]ted.

"There will come a time when the [brea]kdown of nitrates will stop," he says.

Obermann tested water from near the [...]dem and Mussum waterworks near [Bo]cholt and found that ground water [coll]ects in different layers or levels [wh]ich do not mix. Each year has its [lay]er of water and scientific analysis of [ea]ch level can determine the environ[me]ntal influences in any year.

Obermann found that the deepest [wa]ter layers were 22 years old. This [wa]ter was the purest. But from ten [me]tres upwards the "clean" water layers [...]ed.

The change from comparatively clean [to] polluted water is sudden, not gradual. [Th]e nitrate levels in more recent ground [wa]ter are considerably higher.

Water specimens taken near Mussum [w]aterworks show how serious this prob[le]m is. In the six to seven metres range where the water is about two years old the nitrate levels from one layer to the next rose from 19 to 192 milligrammes per litre.

Obermann says that this illustrates as graphically as any history book the time when intensive use of chemical fertilisers began.

Hydromechanical stratification of ground water is not Obermann's discovery. It is a phenomenon to which scientists have so far paid little attention.

Tests have focussed only on pumped-up water in which the water levels were mixed. This meant that measurements taken over the years showed only a gradual increase in nitrate levels.

Even these data were alarming enough. On a map of West Germany, a broad sickle-shaped area ranging from western North Rhine-Westphalia through Hesse to Bavaria marks danger zones where ground water could soon be so heavily polluted as to be undrinkable, i.e. exceeding the present maxima for nitrate content.

This grim picture is lugubriously upstaged by Obermann's findings because it is "decades out of date" he himself says.

The higher, more heavily-polluted water strata are now coming nearer the surface. The time when high-nitrate level water starts coming through the taps is not so far off. Within a very short time, nitrate pollution levels have risen spectacularly.

Those who trust in the self-purifying qualities of ground water risk being disappointed. Obermann has found that the supply of self-purifying elements in ground water is limited. "There will come a time when the breakdown of nitrates will stop."

These dangers are intensified by, for example, the use of heat pumps. Ground water is a favoured heat source for heat pumps because its temperature remains the same throughout the year. But the ground water used for heat pumps comes back several degrees cooler — and that reduces its self-purifying qualities.

What is true of nitrates will apply with even greater force to pollution by chlorides and sulphates, salts and detergents. Even traditional measuring techniques have found that ground water is constantly getting harder.

"No wonder when lime is used even in woods," says Obermann.

The chloride content in ground water has been rising steadily for the past 15 years. In the greater Munich area, it has doubled in the past 20 years.

One of the main reasons for the salinification of water is the use of road salt to combat snow and ice. Two million tonnes of road salt are used annually in West Germany, which puts it top of the European road salt league. Road salt use has trebled in the past 15 years.

Professor Wolfgang Bischofsberger has studied the effect this has on ground water. He found that on roads where salt was regularly strewn chloride levels had risen from two to 30 milligrammes per litre and even as high as 200 milligrammes per letre. The World Health Organisation maximum is 600 mg/l, so Bischofsberger does not yet see any immediate danger, though he warns against the possible long-term effects.

Ground water supply is not infinite. The days when it flowed in plenty are clearly past. Once, ground water fed and purified rivers and lakes. Today it is the other way round: the huge increase in ground water consumption has meant that ground water pipes are now often filled by foul surface water.

*Dankwart Guratzsch*

(Die Welt, 25 April 1981)

# 'Creeping pollution' culprit in massive sea bird toll

An estimated 150,000 sea birds died last winter as a result of oil pollu[tio]n – a new high point in destruction.

Scientists have now been able to con[fir]m what they have long suspected — [th]at it is not spectacular tanker disasters [bu]t creeping pollution which is respons[ib]le for this sort of disaster.

Last winter thousands of dead and [dy]ing gulls, guillemots, ducks and divers [we]re washed up on the North Frisian [coa]st.

Main offenders are crude oil from [tan]kers, heavy heating and diesel oil [fro]m British and Norwegian oil fields, [an]d bilge oil pumped secretly (and in [vio]lation of international environment [agr]eements) into the sea by ships.

Oil-rig and shipowners can no longer [den]y the causes of the pollution, which [aff]ects not only birds but also fish and [se]a fauna.

From the beginning of November [1]980 to February 1981 Dr Gottfried [Va]uk of the Heligoland bird reserve and [m]embers of the Jordsand Sea Bird Pro[tec]tion Association counted 1,200 birds [ki]lled by oil on Heligoland, Sylt, Am[ru]m and the Hauke-Haien-Koog.

Experience shows that only a small [fr]action of these oil victims, who breed [i]n Greenland, Scandinavia and nothern [R]ussia and winter in the German Bight, [a]re found. Most sink to the bottom of [th]e sea.

Vauk used a mathematical formula to [es]timate that the total number of birds [ki]lled by oil is probably as high as [1]80,000.

He and his fellow environmentalists [we]re only collecting birds along a very narrow section of coast, so the real figure could be even higher.

Heligoland alone was hit by two oil slicks completely unconnected with the oil rig collapse in January off Norway. It is reckoned that at least 200,000 sea birds died when a Greek tanker probably dumped polluted ballast water into the sea.

Hardest hit were gulls, closely followed by auks and ducks.

Dr Vauk is sceptical about efforts to rescue birds covered in oil: "Cleaning is very difficult and expensive. For the birds it is generally futile and, from a biological and ecological point of view, useless."

English and American institutes with large budgets only managed to save and re-integrate 0.8 per cent of birds rescued.

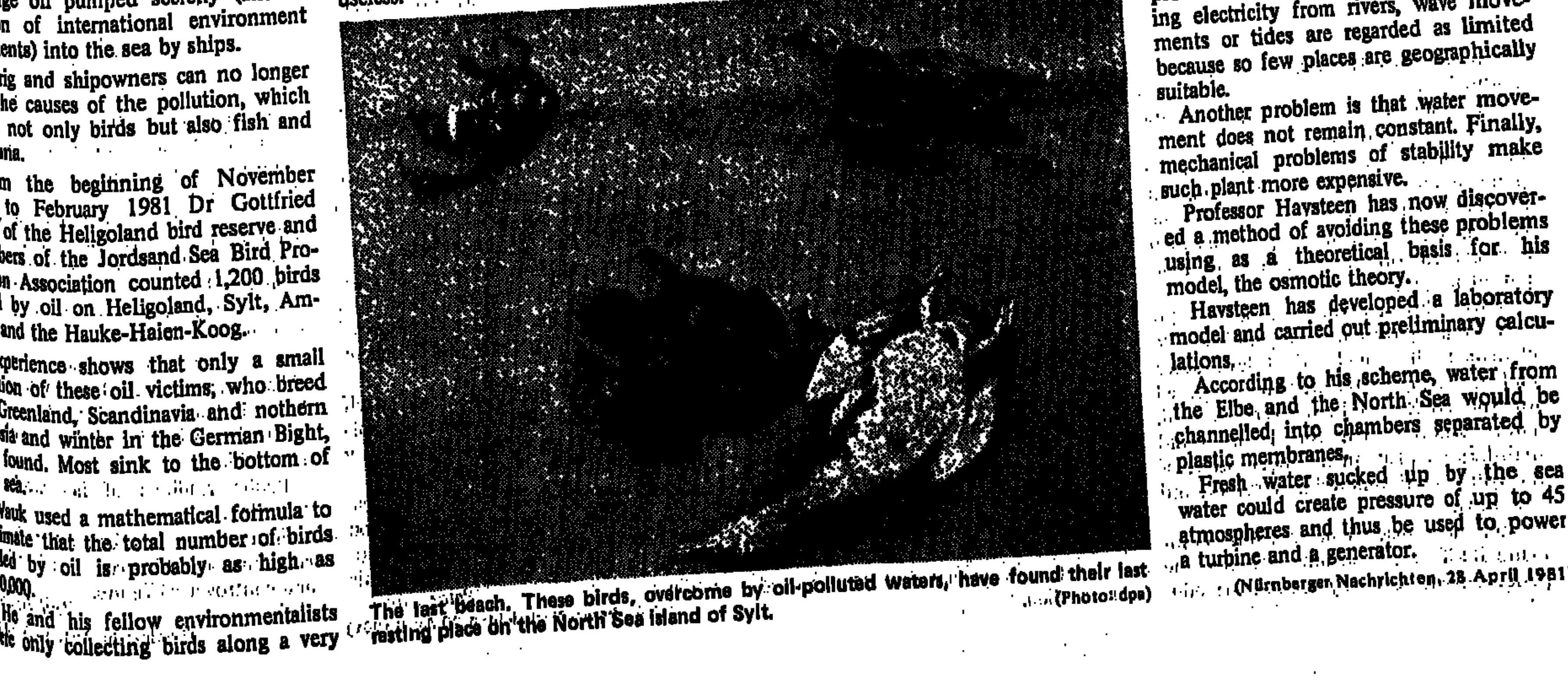
The only way to prevent birds being killed on this huge scale is to ensure strict compliance with international anti-marine-pollution agreements, by means of air surveillance of coasts.

Data gathered by the Council of Environmental Experts for the Bonn Ministry of the Environment cast further light on creeping oil pollution: in 1981 the volume of oil shipped across the North Sea will total an estimated 655 million tonnes.

Carelessness, technical faults and deliberate dumping will probably result in 23,000 tonnes of crude oil polluting the North Sea.

And it is estimated that the 60 rigs in North Sea oilfields dump 2,800 tonnes of oil into the sea every year. *dpa*

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 28 April 1981)



The last beach. These birds, overcome by oil-polluted waters, have found their last resting place on the North Sea island of Sylt. (Photo: dpa)

# Energy, medical possibilities for discovery

A Kiel scientist has discovered a formula which he believes could have a spectacular application to medicine and overcome problems of generating electricity from water.

Professor Bent Havsteen, of Kiel University Biochemistry Department, bases his study on the osmotic generation of electricity from fresh and sea water.

The formula makes it possible to calculate the speed of osmotic processes.

Osmosis is the tendency of fluids separated by porous membranes to pass through and mix with each other.

These semi-porous membranes only allow smaller molecules of the solution – water, in the case of living organisms – to pass through.

It does not allow through larger nolecules of substances dissolved in water, such as salts and sugars.

Havsteen discovered that the speed with which water molecules pass through the membrane and into, for instance, a salt or sugar solution, is proportional to the surface size of the salt molecules.

It is a discovery which, he believes, will enable better control and prediction of drug absorption; lead to improved tissue drainage; and help with excretion of poisons.

The other application is electricity production. The possibilities of generating electricity from rivers, wave movements or tides are regarded as limited because so few places are geographically suitable.

Another problem is that water movement does not remain constant. Finally, mechanical problems of stability make such plant more expensive.

Professor Havsteen has now discovered a method of avoiding these problems using, as a theoretical basis for his model, the osmotic theory.

Havsteen has developed a laboratory model and carried out preliminary calculations.

According to his scheme, water from the Elbe and the North Sea would be channelled into chambers separated by plastic membranes.

Fresh water sucked up by the sea water could create pressure of up to 45 atmospheres and thus be used to power a turbine and a generator.

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 28 April 1981)

■ THE ARTS

# Mehring, the mocking, the folksy, the tender

During the Second World War, soldiers and sailors in the Thousand Year Reich sang a song whose opening words were "In Hamburg an der Elbe", about a girl from the Reeperbahn.

They did not realise that these words were written by a writer whose name was as much anathema to the Nazis as that of Heinrich Heine: Walter Mehring, who celebrated his 85th birthday on April 29.

Mehring had managed to escape from Nazi Germany on the night of the Reichstag fire in Berlin.

His mocking songs about Hitler and Goebbels made him a wanted man for Nazi henchmen. Before Hitler came to power, Goebbels had said he wanted to "take care of four intellectual beasts personally."

One was Walter Mehring.

Mehring's pedigree was suspicious enough in itself from the Nazi viewpoint. His father, Siegmar Mehring, translated Villon and Swinburne, edited Ulk, was imprisioned in 1899 for mocking the unholy alliance between the church, the grande bourgeoisie and the army.

No wonder his son left Prussia at the earliest opportunity, moving into the Bohemian republic which had its headquarters at the Berlin Grössenwahl café. Mehring wrote for Herwarth Walden's avant garde magazine *Der Sturm* and for Max Reinhardt's cabaret *Schall und Rauch*.

Inspired by Dadaism and Expressionism. Mehring wrote bitingly funny texts for the ensemble of Trude Hesterberg, Paul Graetz, Gussy Holl and Wilhelm Bendow.

He became a master of music hall with his cheeky chansons and his simple, *volkslied*-style verses.

Mehring's songs and poems reflected the nervous pace of life in Berlin. His range of subjects was wide and life-like ranging from the underground railway and the street to the city's famous six-day cycle races.

His style was optimistic, melancholic, throwaway, cheeky or tender, depending. He brought about a marriage between literature and cabaret, the main centres here being Paris and the Wedding district of Berlin. He got to know Paris as a correspondent for German newspapers.

As a poet, Mehring experimented with all kinds of styles. His prose was also remarkably exact. He was a sworn enemy of bug and little tyrants, especially in his article for Carl von Ossietsky's *Weltbühne*. His satire against German racism "Müller, Chronik einer deutschen Sippe" was confiscated in Vienna at the instigation of von Papen.

Mehring also hit headlines as a playwright. His *Merchant Berlin* – a "historical play about German inflation" – showed mercilessly how huge p… could be made from the misery of… masses. The play, directed by Erwin… ator, was banned after its premi… 1929. Today Mehring is seriously ill… old people's home in Zurich. No… man Minister of Education in… years has seen fit to try to persuade… to return home. In the fifties,… Bloch urged him to come to the… Mehring refused and instead Bloch… to the West.

In 1975 Mehring came to Munich… a short period but there he was… met by so many garden gnomes th… returned to Zurich.

In 1976 the city of Berlin a… him an honorary doctorate. M… enthusiasm was not overwhelming…

The Düsseldorf Claassen Verlag… published several volumes of a co… edition of Mehring's works. But th… done little to alleviate his loneli… one of the last survivors of the c… ebrated Weimar generation of… ters…

*Horst Hartm…*

(Mannheimer Morgen, 29 April…)



Walter Mehring (Photo: dpa)

# Unveiling the years of turbulence

Luise Rinser began writing when she was a 27-year-old schoolteacher. Her short story *Die gläsernen Ringe* was published by Fischer Verlag in 1938 and was a major success.

During the war the Nazis banned her from writing. As one of their critics, she was lucky to escape execution at Traunstein concentration camp. She described these experiences in her Prison Diary, published in 1946.

Frau Rinser has now turned 70. Her moving and engagingly honest autobiography, *Den Wolf umarmen*, has just been published by Fischer Verlag. It covers the first half of her life, up to the fifties.

It describes details of her youth and her studies, of the tense relationship of the outspoken child to its parents. We also find out what real people characters in her novels and short stories are based on. She admits to acting out of compassion. She has been married twice to composers. The first was killed in Russia, the second is Carl Orff.

Out of compassion she married a homosexual anti-fascist to save him from the Gestapo. Her compassion went so far that she also hid an SS leader fleeing from the Americans after the war.

Frau Rinser reached the peak of her literary fame in 1948 with her short story *Jan Lobel von Warsaw*. Here, too, the mastering of the past is the key theme: a gardener hides a Polish Jew who has fled from a concentration camp.

The autobiography ends with the successful publication of the *Nina* novels, a kind of trilogy which began in 1950 with *Mitte des Lebens*. By this time, Rinser was so well-known that illustrated magazines commissioned her to write articles on Lourdes and Kon… reuth.

She has always been in the wa… literary criticism, which has denied… place among the main modern no… and short story writers. She is ge… dismissed as too one-sided or reli… and edifying. The religious element… reared its head in the novel Da… (1953). Since then she has been lab… a "Catholic writer."

Frau Rinser's work remains co… This is evident not only in her diary… tries *Baustelle* (1970), *Grenzüber…* (1972) and *Kriegsspielzeug* (1978)… also in the other subjects she deals w…



Luise Rinser (Photo: Sven S…)

especially as she is becoming increas… ly involved in politica.

In 1971 she upset many of… Catholic readers when she, as a Cath… herself, campaigned for the SPD… alienated many again by her idiosync… interpretation of the life of St. Franc… Assisi. In 1976 she travelled in S… Korea and wrote a sharply critical re… The next year she attacked the S… Korean secret police.

The same year her flat in the A… Hills was visited by Gudrun E… lin and Andreas Baader. This of co… led to her being labelled a terrorist… sympathiser.

Public readings of her works … cancelled.

Frau Rinser has become a figu… contemporary history – a fasci… and controversial figure.

*Paul Hü…*

(Rheinische Post, 30 April…)

# Future of the book: experts in doubt

Every year the literary conscience of the German Book Trade Association rouses from its slumber and the organisation holds the Literary Discussions in conjunction with its Swiss and Austrian sister organisations.

This useful event, which brings together journalists and literary experts, was this year devoted to the somewhat sensational topic: "The New Reader — The Book in Tomorrow's Media Scene."

Those who had expected blinding insights into the effects of the new media on reading habits were, however, disappointed.

The organisers had invited highly competent experts from Germany, Switzerland and Austria to take part in the panel discussion in the Insel Hotel. But as the discussions were on it became clear that they had more questions than answers to offers, more doubts than patent recipes.

With Christian Doelkers of the Zurich Pestalozzi Centre as a rather pale chairman, the panel did at least agree that the dangers the new media posed for the book had been over-estimated. They believed that the book would maintain its place in the media-scene of the future — despite cable television and videotext.

Audience discontent at this point made itself felt. Even more so when the panel circled tediously around the educational and economic aspects of the book as medium instead of addressing themselves to the question of the reader of tomorrow.

Gerhard Unholzer, of the Munich Infratest Institute, kept providing statistical information to ensure more objectivity and less speculation but his information was sometimes greeted with scepticism.

He said that on the whole the book was maintaining a healthy position. Factual and non-fiction works had enjoyed considerable growth rates: 55 per cent of 18—29 year-old read books; 44 per cent of West Germans read a book once a day; 71 per cent read a book once a week.

Unholzer did not accept the theory of the "decline of reading culture," but here he found himself in a minority of one.

György Sebestyen, the only writer on the panel, saw dangers for the book, which was the sole medium to allow a maximum of personal freedom of access and use, plus precise and concentrated information.

Paul Twaroch of Austrian TV and Guido Frei of Swiss Radio and TV played down the newness of the new media. They spoke of an "electronic affluent society" and "electronic rubbish heaps" and urged publishers to develop strategies against over-visualisation and the pressure to be topical.

This self-criticism by TV bosses was generally accepted. Schools and the book trade were also suspected of not doing enough to popularise literature, especially good literature.

Have not these epithets applied to readers up to now?

There was unanimous agreements that the differences in educational levels that were reflected in reading habits were a danger for a free, democratic society.

Sociologist and communications expert Professor Alfred Willener of Lausanne expressed his concern about this development, saying that the freedom of the book was increasingly threatened by marked forces.

He said that the book trade itself might be healthy but the reader was suffering from fever overproduction by publishers and lack of orientation.

It was paradoxically true that the book's greatest potential effect was on those needing emancipation whose educational background barred access to this medium.

*Peter Engel*

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 29 April 1981)

■ MEDICINE

# Fear at the root of many illnesses

Fear can be converted into diabetes, abnormal blood pressure, obesity or the opposite. It can also cause heart attacks, said Dr Achim Reindell, a Hamburg internist, at this year's Lindau Psychotherapy Weeks.

Explaining the role of fear at the root of illness, he said everybody had his own way of converting this fear into physical symptoms — or of not doing so.

Another speaker, psychoanalyst Wulf-Volker Lindner, also of Hamburg, took a look at what *Angst* (fear) could trigger: getting the better of another person in day-to-day life; environmental problems; squatting; and inner conflicts.

It has so far transpired from the conference that where *angst* is concerned the therapist cannot distance himself as he would with a physical ailment. But why not? Is it because *angst* (fear or phobia, call it what you will) finds its victims everywhere? Or is it because the therapist does not know how to deal with it?

Professor Heigl-Evers, Düsseldorf, explained how Sigmund Freud saw *angst*: Psychological energy is alienated from its normal use. Something (an idea or an experience) is thus suppressed into the unconscious; and it is this suppression that creates *angst*.

By the same token, however, it is *angst* that makes us suppress something.

But what happens then? *Angst* surfaces time and again as a warning of a situation that threatens the patient in a way similar to the experience he suppressed. Neurotic fear therefore has the useful function of issuing a warning.

It is therefore good, Professor Heigl-Evers said, to develop a neurotic *angst* at the right moment — an *angst* that prevents us from exposing ourselves to a danger only because this is expected of us.

But the following point was not elaborated on: the fact that neurotic fear in a person has the function of keeping him from a damaging adaptation to a given situation.

Professor Heigl-Evers' paper was not the only one that simply evaded answering this question of deeper meaning.

Lindner came somewhat closer to everyday realities by taking a look at that which fear can trigger: getting the better of our fellow man in day-to-day occupational life, environmental problems, events involving nuclear power stations and squatting (as if squatting were not itself an expression of *angst*). To this we must add conflicts within ourselves.

*Angst* could perhaps be coped with by tackling it in community with others or indeed by tackling it alone and as a private matter.

In community with others, as Lindner sees it, means "art, religion and such modern rituals as the seizure of nuclear powers stations."

But what changes if, say, I paint the picture of a burning house and the house is ravaged to its foundations because I became aware of a conflict within myself and forgot to help extinguish the fire?

Is the attempt to prevent the occurrence of deadly poison only a ritual of warding off *angst?*

The paper by Dr Karl König, head of the Psychotherapy Department at the State Hospital at Tiefenbrunn near Göttingen, gave rise to similar reservations.

He spoke of the effect of an excessively fear-ridden mother on the ego of her child.

But what if the mother has every reason to be afraid and therefore cannot demonstrate the necessary confidence to the child? Confidence can only be demonstrated by those who have it — those who have confidence in something. But what could this something be in today's world?

Professor Dieter Ohlmeier and psychiatrist Wolfgang Gerstenberg looked into the patient's and the therapist's *angst* and its interplay.

Here, I was delighted to notice that Gerstenberg understood himself as a patient.

The old Greeks realised that it is not only the wounded who knew something about being wounded. But here in Germany the fear of being vulnerable drives psychiatrists into the position of an allegedly healthy person.

What Gerstenberg wants to achieve in psychotherapy is not riddance of fear but the ability to feel *angst*. Ultimately, this boils down to learning to distinguish whether our *angst* warns us of a danger threatening from outside or of a lack of self confidence.

But in comparing the silence in Japanese Zen meditation with the *angst*-inspiring silence of the Freudian analysts, Gerstenberg forgets that there is such a thing as a cold and loving silence and that a Japanese patient is familiar with Zen meditation as a road to enlightenment while the Western patient is primarily familiar with the silence during a school exam.

For Ohlmeier, much depends on the therapist's knowing his fear and permitting them.

What I miss here is a reference to Fritz Riemann who, in his book *Grundformen der Angst*, described the meaning of *angst* as a force that forces us to stay on our course, each on his own — a course that makes him a unique individual within society.

The discussion on sex is still in progress.

*Günther Mehren*

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 25 April 1981)

# Malpractice says court

If artificially-induced labour … mother or child the doctor … hospital become liable for damag…

A Hamm court has ruled … lawsuit in which a woman … Dortmund Obstetrics Hospital … doctor following the birth of … with brain damage.

The court thus upheld the … ruling of a Dortmund court.

The parents were entitled to … sation, if for no other reason … mother had not been adequately … ed about the possible conseque… induced labour.

In this case, the parents had … cally wanted a natural birth, … medical expert summoned by the … Professor Wolfgang Maximilian … held that there was no medical … for induced labour.

Most of these birth are … to help the hospital's … other wards for organisational … This also explains why so few … born on weekends when the hosp… only a skeleton staff.

Labour is induced by admin… the synthetic hormone oxytoci… since artificial labour is more … an anaesthetic is usually given.

This frequently prolongs labour, … increasing the likelihood that the … has to be removed by suction, … turn entail an added risk for the …

(Nordwest Zeitung, 29 April …)

# The ethics of euthanasia

The dictionary definition of euthanasia is: "The act or practice of painlessly putting to death persons suffering from incurable conditions or diseases."

The Greek meaning of the word … best be translated as "happy death".

The German Society for … Dying, which has just sent … ter to Bundestag members … its aims, does not quite go … the dictionary definition of … (which was discredited by the Third … ich) but speaks instead of "man's … to a dignified death".

And who would not want to … dignity? The question is, can … towards such a dignified death be … tutionalised?

Few doctors are likely to take … role of the angel of death.

Those who might do so would … be branded accordingly — provi… course that this sort of thing can … gulated at all.

The dispute over the legalis… abortion which went through … man courts, including the Consti… Court, shows where the ethical … of such death assistance lies.

Large sections of the populat… sider themselves bound by the … mandment "Thou shalt not kill" … would never agree to the legalisa… euthanasia.

Lawyers, on the other hand, … the impossibility of coming up … legal definition of the contingency … would justify euthanasia.

As a result, there little chance … laws to govern mercy killing will … drawn up.

The right to a dignified death … propagated and implemented for … own person by Carl Amery — must … with the individual himself.

A "happy death" will thus … mercy which no court can grant.

*Erich …*

(Bremer Nachrichten, 24 April …)

# Attempting to make death a little easier

Thirteen women and one man from Baden near Zurich have acquired the right to call themselves "death companions". They have completed a course on care for the dying.

Macabre though this title might be, their function is deeply humane.

"We firmly believe that nobody should die alone in our day and age," say Nurse Ursula Widmer and the Reverend Vinzenz Felder. "But relatives and the hospital staff are not always in a position to stay with the dying round the clock. It's here that we would like to use the death companions."

Some 500 people die every year in Baden's 350-bed hospital that is equipped for all branches of medicine.

Naturally, doctors and nursing staff are frequently faced with the conflict of neglecting the dying in favour of those who are on the mend.

Although the Baden hospital frequently has a waiting list of 70 or 80, no dying person is ever shunted off. But even so, the hospital is eager for more "humanity".

Sister Widmer and Catholic and Protestant priests, in conjunction with the medical director, have modelled the new service on an experiment started a year ago in Lucerne. Participants in the course receive thorough instruction to equip them for their difficult service to the dying.

Screened from the outside world and the hectic business of hospital life and, above all, from the media, the 13 people (among them teachers, housewives and office workers) received an intensive training extending over a total of 80 hours in two weeks.

The women are between 47 and 70, and the only male participant used his holidays to attend the course.

Naturally, the participants also learned the basics of nursing which includes such things as washing the patient, feeding him, making beds and plumping pillows.

For most, this was the first brush with hospital routine. To add to realism, the participants acted out the respective roles of the dying and the companion.

The emphasis was on equipping the companions with the psychological tools they will need in their work.

This was done in long discussions on the meaning of life and death, enhanced by explanations given by doctors as to the needs of the dying and their relatives.

The future death companions are now working in various departments of the hospital.

The medical director is convinced that they fulfil a sorely needed function and will provide a great relief for the medical and nursing staff.

Incidentally, they are subject to the same secrecy as applies to the medical profession as a whole.

To prevent misunderstandings, Sister Widmer and Rev. Felder stress that death companions do not take the place of ministers, doctors, nurses or psychologists.

They are to be used primarily at night, and they must undertake to work at least once a month on an honorary basis.

Says Rev. Felder: "A death companion is a compassionate person who must offer companionship not only in life but in death as well."

Professor Franco Rest, Dortmund, puts it even more succinctly: "It is more important for a person to be loved on his deathbed than to receive the right medicine …"

*Walter H. Rueb*

(Die Welt, 23 April 1981)



SOCIETY

# Polarised viewpoints over effects of child drug addict's own story

Christiane F. was a Berlin child prostitute and heroin addict who managed to kick the drug habit.

Two journalists wrote a best-selling … based on Christiane's life, *Wir Kinder vom Bahnhof Zoo.*

The book has been filmed and is on general release in West Germany.

Both the book and the film are highly controversial. Some believe they will … a deterrent effect on potential … takers. Others fear that they could … the opposite effect.

Screenplay writer Hermann Weigel … managed to detect a point of comparison between Christiane F. and Goethe's *Werther*. He said that young people's heroes had not come from literature in the past 20 years. Indeed there … been nothing comparable since Werther 200 years ago.

Horst Eberhard Richter, director of … Giessen University Psychosomatic Clinic, is in favour of the book. He says it … a unique description of a drug addict's career.

Its main achievement, he says, is that … brings the subject of drug addiction … into the open. Addiction cannot in future be regarded as in any way an exotic disease after this, he says.

No one wants to make the subject taboo. Nonetheless, others have their reservations about the former junkie's report.

Wolfgang Heckmann, a Berlin drug therapy advisor, says: "Parents should not get the idea that they are doing their children a favour by buying them the book or allowing them to go see the film."

Heckmann says that there are too many possibilities of identification with Christiane, Detlef, Axel, "Corpse", Babi and the rest. This is not just due to the lively background music. More important is that Christiane's set show solidarity and are generally nice and well-meaning.

Christiane wrote in the book: "I am not sure that you find the same kind of friendship we had among non-addicts." This suggests drug-addiction could be a path to friendship and warmth.

Drug therapists acknowledge that such friendship can and does exist, usually as a result of time in prison together or experiences tricking the police.

Wolfgang Esser of the Cologne Therapy Centre for Psychosocial Rehabilitation knows the other side of this coin well: "I have known a case of an addict selling his best friend tea-dust and telling him it was a drug."

Heinrich Breuer of the Cologne Drug Therapy Circle believes that the idea of Christiane and Detlef scrupulously sharing their stuff is unusual and romantic. "Junkies usually are only concerned to get their own stuff, even if it means stealing it from others."

The Berlin Tourism Office knows that the book has increased Berlin's popularity among youngsters. Since Christiane life story was published, the number of West German school children coming to Berlin has risen dramatically. Teachers say that Berlin is now the number one choice for class trips.

The children are not interested in the Berlin Wall, Schöneberg town hall or Hertha football club so much as in the child prostitution scene at Zoo railway station, the drug disco sound and and the underground railway stations on the Kurfürstendamm where young addicts meet.

Esser says that "sightseeing in the Berlin drug scene is the in-thing now."

Heckmann says that a lot of youngsters visit the place described in the book to get a look at the addicts in real life.

His talks with children visiting Berlin have shown that many youngsters are impressed by the drug scene and everything going on in it.

Identification is sometimes so strong that some try to imitate the life of the addicts in the film and the book. Girls and boys on the "Christiane trip" compare their lives with hers: "I am now at the stage Christiane was at then."

Many addicts now hope to emulate Christiane by writing a similar book.

Breuer says: "When the book came out, many clients said they wanted to write their accounts, that what Christiane reports is harmless in comparison. They said they wanted to describe their experiences as young pros among the Turks of Cologne."

At one extreme, there is the danger that children could be tempted to believe that fixing is the path to fame. This fatuous belief is even encouraged by thoughtless remarks such as this by film director Ulrich Edel: "Christiane is now a star of the young, perhaps she is even the richest child in Germany."

She may be a star, but she is hardly the richest child. All the same, addicts may still think they can make big money out of autobiographical accounts.

But the criticism does not stop here. Breuer regrets that Christiane's kicking of the heroin habit is presented as something out of the blue. He also thinks that child prostitution is made "subliminally attractive." He warns that the film goes into too much detail on some points; how to tattoo oneself, how to fix and so on.

His summary: "We warn all teachers against this film."

But Breuer's fears are not shared everywhere. Indeed a special pamphlet for parents and teachers on the book has been published.

One of the booklet's editors, Reinhard Bockhofer, an educationist from Bremen, summarises his discussions with Bremen teachers thus: "Everyone I have spoken to says without any reservation that this autobiographical report is too frightening to encourage kids to take drugs."

Whereas Heckmann says that youngsters cannot be deterred, Ilse von den Driesch of the Cologne School Psychological Service says that the book would repel stable youngsters.

This corresponds with the declared aim of director Edel to "demystify drugs."

Esser is basically positive about this story of addiction and prostitution. He says there are many parallels in her account to the Cologne and Bonn scenes. But he says it is essential that children should not be left to themselves when reading the book or watching the film.

Parents should talk to them before giving them the DM8 for a cinema ticket. And ideally parents should go along and watch too.

Esser says that the best solution to the problem is for the local drug advice centres to discuss the problem with teachers and pupils in schools. However, schools in North Rhine-Westphalia rarely take advantage of this possibility. In Berlin, things are different. Here, entire classes often go along to drug advice centres to talk with social workers and therapists there.

Teachers themselves are far from unanimous on how to deal with the problem.

Von den Driesch underlines how difficult teachers find it to handle the drug question. They are far from ideally trained to cope with the problem.

Often the pupils themselves know far more than their teachers about drugs.

She says schools must do more than just advise. They should help prevent by



Christiane F. in 'Wir Kinder vom Bahnhof Zoo'. (Photo: Neue Constantin)

paying more attention to integration, togetherness and solidarity — which is often lacking in families. The school could provide the pupils with some of the warmth which Christiane F sought among her fellow addicts.

Though there is disagreement about the suitability of book and film for children and youngsters, there is an equal degree of unanimity about the interest of both book and film for parents and teachers.

Anyone interested in knowing the thoughts and problems of young addicts will get first-hand information here.

Those who have seen Uli Edel's film will be far more aware of what is happening around them in the city. It can hardly be described as an entertaining visit to the cinema. Too many questions are asked to which the viewer knows the answers. During her addiction, Christiane F wrote: "If you want to kick the habit, you have to know what for. I don't know."

*Martin Oehlen*

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 9 April 1981)

# TV's super entertainer keeps going with same successful recipe




Time flies. Hans Joachim Kulenkampff, the whiz kid of German television and super quizmaster, has turned 60.

It was certainly not in "Kuli's" cards that he would one day end up among the greats of German entertainment.

His father was a Bremen merchant and his brother is a professor of medicine.

And when Kuli decided to go into show business it was, of course, the theatre.

Looking back on his career, Kuli is rather embarrassed. His shows have made him popular to the point of being indispensable to the German entertainment world.

He is better known than any great of the theatre world could ever become. Yet he has not quite given up the legitimate stage; and once in a while he still goes on the road, visiting small towns and villages with a North German theatrical group. The trouble is, he can no longer play any role except one: himself.

Kulenkampff has had his share of trouble with his chosen career which began at a time when people who mattered rejected television for anything but news.

In fact, when the mighty in this country decided to give the people the blessing of television the intention was to inform and enlighten rather than entertain them.

It is therefore not surprising that the heaviest of theatre fare dominated the programmes in the early days of television, as if people had to justify their staring at the box by saying to themselves that they were "improving their minds".

Today's viewers' surveys show that most people associate television with a "waste of time".

Out-and-out entertainment programmes therefore have a particularly hard time getting across, for no matter how much the viewers want to be entertained they will later pooh-pooh the whole things as "irrelevant amusement".

The uphill struggle of televised entertainment becomes understandable in a country where Lessing's *Minna von Barnhelm* is in all seriousness seen as a comedy.

Still, it was no coincidence that Kulenkampff should have earned his laurels with quizshows, of all things.

Quiz programmes are regarded as more than mere entertainment. They are no nonsense and no slapstick because they combine entertainment with education. And at the end the viewer might even wind up knowing which European government is headed by a woman.

It is, however, indicative that this type of programme originated in an era when a person was expected to have read Goethe or Shakespeare.

In the final analysis, this kind of entertainment is meant for the fossilised older generation that sticks out like a sore thumb in an educational landscape marked by one reform after another.

The viewer's interest in a quiz programme wanes the moment he finds that he is no longer equal to the questions asked, and as a result the whole genre is on its way out.

In a way, Kuli can be seen as one of the last masters of his trade — a delicate trade if ever there was one.

The embarrassment of ignorance displayed by candidates must be smoothed over. Moreover, they must be presented in a way that will grip the audience and make it participate and sympathise with their successes and defeats.

Sounds easy, but it is devilishly difficult — so much so that few people risk following in Kuli's footsteps.

Even his own career has been marked by constant comebacks.

Only the world of TV can produce stars of his ilk, and it is hard to find criteria with which to describe his attributes.

At first glance, he would seem easily replaceable. And yet all attempts to have failed: hence the many comebacks.

The screen is not interested in theatrical attributes. If Kulenkampff changed even one iota he would never be forgiven by his fans.

He has thus remained faithful to himself, making a virtue out of necessity.

Just as he himself cannot change and remain successful, the programme that established his fame ("One Must Win") was resurrected from oblivion and presented again in exactly the same format as it started.

As Kuli himself put it in one of his shows: "I've never met anybody who was as proud as I about not having learned anything new in ten years."

He hit the nail on the head, putting his career in a nutshell.

Now that he has turned 60 we suddenly realise how time flies.

His shows inevitably overdraw their alloted time slots, and his career, too, seems to have rid itself of the dictates of time.

In retrospect, it is hard to keep the individual shows apart. True, his assistants change, but the show goes on.

Still, he has never chosen the easy way and he has never made any bones about his political sympathies.

In one of his shows he wanted to know the third verse of the *Deutschlandlied* (national anthem), in another he hung up a provocative map of Germany and accused the CDU of being an "Ostpolitik propagandist of the Bonn government".

Undaunted, he has always tirelessly opposed the mingling of politics and entertainment in our broadcasting system — his main objection being they were divided into two separate departments.



Hans Joachim Kulenkampff (Photo...)

The little provocations and pi... could well have been intended t... some spice to his daily routine.

In any event, he is one of the great entertainers to have come German television — and even when is wrong he is wrong in a much impressive way than the run-of-the entertainment gnomes of German...

*Michael Sch...*

(Frankfurter Allgemeine ... für Deutschland, 27 April...)

# Nothing but more pipes in this pipeline

Unlike a great many other men, Istvan Kish, of Neumark, Bavaria, has every reason to be grateful to his mother-in-law. For it is she to whom he owes his all-consuming hobby: collecting pipes.

Today his collection ranks among the largest in the Federal Republic of Germany. He is among the top collectors in Europe.

His extensive travels to all parts of the world serve but one purpose: to find more pipes to add to his already vast collection of 1,400.

There are pipes everywhere in his rambling house, some in showcases, others in large wooden chests and still others in racks lining the staircase.

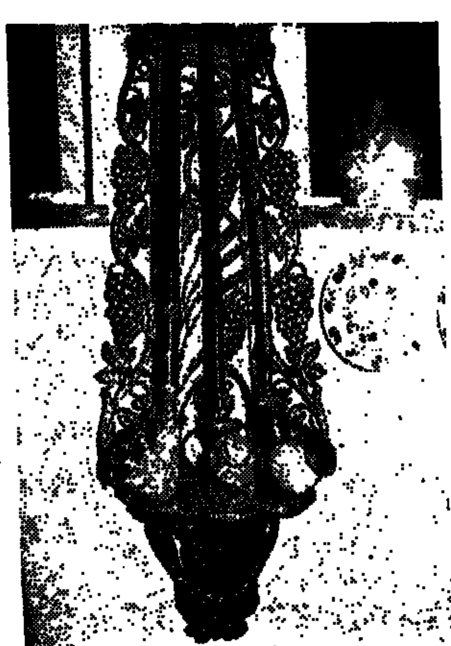
His collecting mania started 18 years ago. His mother-in-law, who lived in Hungary, was preparing to visit the family in Germany and wanted to bring her son-in-law a gift. When she asked her daugher what she considered most suitable, the answer was: "Bring him a meerschaum pipe."

This was easier said than done at that time in Hungary. Mother-in-law asked all her friends and acquaintances to look for such a pipe.

The result: she wound up with 18 pipes instead of one, and Istvan Kish acquired the reputation of a passionate pipe collector.

He had little choice but to live up to the unwittingly acquired reputation and enlisted the help of friends to be one the lookout for unusual items.

Pipes from all parts of the world and made from the most unusual materials found their way to Bavaria.



Pipes for all tastes...

(Photo: Dorit Schaller)

Most are of meerschaum, but many are wood, stone, iron, glass, ivory, human and animal bones, corncobs, pumpkin, clay and porcelain.

Many are ornately decorated and have silver lids made in the finest of filigree work.

Of course, pipes are made for men, as the choice of motifs shows.

Most of the carvings show hunting and animal scenes and there are many erotic designs.

Quite a number of the lids are decorated with Hungarian coats of arms, and since most meerschaum pipes are carved by Hungarian craftsmen, it is not surprising that the Kish collection repre... a bit of Hungarian history.

Among the rare pieces there are pipes built into walking sticks.

The owner could thus stroll to the nearest coffee house either swinging cane nonchalantly or puffing at it.

It goes without sying that such rarities were reserved for the pri... classes.

And since the man-in-the-street not own such a piece he was at l... given the privilege of admiring it cause whenever the owner was not the pipe he made a point of displ... it in the window.

The finest pipes of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy were owned by the bility and the clergy — those of the bility with ornately carved h... scenes and those of the clergy with lical motifs.

The many anecdotes about make pipe-talk in the Kish house from boring and technical.

Much to Kish's delight, his so... been bitten by the same bug. So both visit fellow collectors and se... for new treasures.

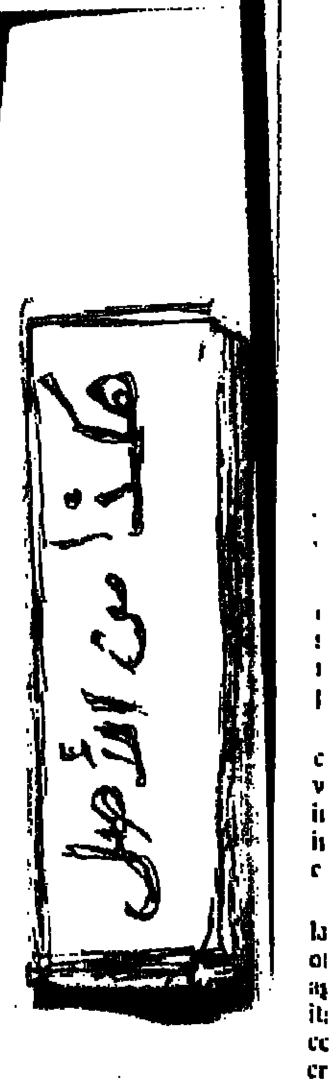
The Kish collection can easily pete with the pipe collections of *Germanisches National-Museum* in remberg, the Tobacco Museum of ... in Westphalia, the Reemstma To... Museum in Hamburg, the Focke seum in Bremen, the *Heimatmu...* *Feuchtwangen* or the Austrian *Ta... manufaktur* in Vienna.

But the world's largest collection far is to be found in Brambeer, En... Germany's pipe-making centre i... city of Ulm on the Danube.

Pipes have long ceased to be a hobby for Kish and have become work. Every item has to be catal... photographed and numbered.

*Dorit Sch...*

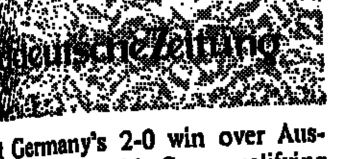
(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 24 April...)







# Stylish victory in World Cup qualifying match




...est Germany's 2-0 win over Aus...ia in a World Cup qualifying in Hamburg drew praise all round ...y because of the victory itself, ...ause of its manner.

...aps the most significant com... came from the Argentinian man... Luis Cesar Menotti, who said the ...mance was "super".

...e team had played far better than ...mini world cup in Uruguay.

...n that occasion, Menotti had been ...ally scathing about West Germa... performance, perhaps because their ...t by Brazil prevented the Argen...s qualifying for the final.

...enotti added: "The present German ...n can get even better."

...e has an eye for these things. Per... he saw parallels between the Ger... team and his own team in 1978. ...success of the Argentinian world-winning side was undoubtedly be... of the unselfish way in which the ...n worked together as a team. There ...signs of the same development in West German team.

...n midfield, Breitner, Müller and Ma...h, all midfield generals in their club ...ns, did not try to dominate but ...*ked together*.

...nager Jupp Derwall regards this as ...most natural thing in the world: ...m can only play well when the lea...ship is divided among several play...

...his is clearly what happened. Was it ...nks to his psychological empathy — did he and Paul Breitner together ...g this about?

"We said before the game that we ...ted to work together for the good of ...team," Derwall said.

...aul Breitner did not want to run ...show at all. He brought Bernd ...ster into the game. The organisation in midfield was excellent and our zonal marking system worked beautifully."

Nonetheless, there are indications that the zonal system was Breitner's brainchild rather than the manager's. The word is that Derwall allocated each of his midfield players an opponent to mark.

Schuster, of Barcelona, who had a fine game, took to the zonal system like a duck to water.

The system of co-determination was introduced by Breitner into his club team, Bayern Munich, and his manager, Pal Csernai, has benefitted from it. Why should the national team manager not also benefit from the authority and leadership of his new chief assistant? Besides, Derwall knew when he recalled Breitner to the national team that he was not picking a yes-man.

The midfield has been reshaped. And whut of the defence and the attack? Uli Stielike, sweeper-up and an excellent reader of the game, will not be available for the games against Brazil and Finland this month — he is required by his club Real Madrid, who play Liverpool in the European Champions' Cup Final in Paris at the end of the month.

Stielike commented: "We've qualified for the world cup finals now and we can experiment." With Franz Beckenbauer, perhaps?



On the ball. Germany's Paul Breitner in possession during the Federal Republic's 2-0 win over Austria in Hamburg. (Photo: Nordbild)

Derwall would not rule this out categorically, though he added meaningfully:

"Anyone who saw Stielike today must admit that we do not necessarily need Beckenbauer."

Schuster will probably play sweeper in the next two games, Briegel can move up into midfield and former captain Dietz could return to the back four.

Derwall is right when he says: "I need 22 players for Spain." Reserves such as Dietz, who accept their fate stoically and do not get upset just because they are dropped, are the salt of the earth.

Experiments could also usefully be made up front. Klaus Fischer played his heart out and scored a goal but was still clearly suffering from the effects of his long lay-off.

And perhaps Dieter Müller of Cologne would be a good partner for his namesake, Hans, up front. He scored two goals in the B-International and his move to Stuttgart, Hansi Müller's club, could give him a new lease of life.

It is clear that there will be no spectacular changes in the West German team.

Derwall was ecstatic about the team's performance in Hamburg. "Our build-up was slow at times, I'll give you that. But the lads showed what they're capable of."

They sure did.

*Hans Elberle*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 2 May 1981)

# Fencers take title for fourth time

...est Germany won the seven-nations fencing tournament for ...fourth time in Tauberbischofsheim ...te losing to the French team.

...am manager Emil Beck was not ...ly bothered about the defeat against French: "A blemish, no more."

...e would hardly have taken the 7-9 ...at so calmly if his team — Alexan... Pusch, Elmar Borrmann, Volker Fis...er and Gerhard Heer — had not put ...such fine performances in the 7-7 ...against the Soviet Union.

...his result robbed the Soviet fencers ...victory at the last minute and Fis...r's 5-0 victory in the final contest ...the crowning point of a nailbiting ...sh.

...eck said: "Of course I wanted total ...mph, but of course I am happy ...ut the final victory against the Soviet ...ion."

...his success fits in neatly with Beck's ...parations for the world champion...ps this month:

"Now the lads have realised that they ...not invincible."

...The German B team's fourth place ...er the USSR and France confirms ...est German fencing domination.

It should be pointed out, though, that the Swedes only sent their third string and the Swiss and French teams were not at full strength. And the Soviet Union under their new trainer Oleg Puzanov showed they are on the upgrade.

The result against France showed Beck that there is still work to be done. His team were at one stage 1-4 down. They pulled back and even went into a 7-5 lead but then lost four contests in a row.

"This is something that just should not happen," said Beck. The French are the reigning Olympic champions and Beck would dearly have loved to defeat them, especially in front of his home crowd.

The memory of this defeat will be motivation enough for the German team. It was their first defeat in 25 internationals.

*dpa*

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 5 May 1981)

# Hölzenbein says goodbye after Frankfurt cup final win

Frankfurt Eintracht defeated Kaiserslautern 3-1 in the West German cup final in Stuttgart.

It was a fitting end to the *Bundesliga* career of Frankfurt veteran and ex-German international forward Bernd Hölzenbein.

He is to play in the North American league for Fort Lauderdale Strikers of Florida.

Hölzenbein's tears flowed as he and his team did a lap of honour after their cup victory.

But those tears should soon turn into laughter when he reaches the US — all the way to the bank.

At the post-match celebrations, Hölzenbein said he was looking forward to playing in the USA.

Frankfurt's fans are not so happy about Holz leaving. They sang "Holz please don't go" as he and the team rode triumphantly through the streets of the city the next day.

Hölzenbein leaves triumphant after 15 years as a regular goal-scorer for Eintracht. A player with one of the cleverest footballing brains in the *Bundesliga*, he was not prepared to accept a contract which would have given him 40 per cent less than his present salary.

Fort Lauderdale have given him a highly lucrative two-year contract.

Hölzenbein will soon be in Montreal, playing alongside his old national team partner Gerd Müller.

And no doubt the two will talk about the good old days. For instance the 1974 World Cup final against Holland, when Hölzenbein's dribbling led the Dutch to give away a penalty, converted by Breitner to level the scores after the Dutch had taken a shock lead.

Hölzenbein has scored goals with backheaders, with his knee and even sitting down. His total of 160 *Bundesliga* goals put him fourth in the all-time list.



Triumphant exit. Bernd Hölzenbein with the cup after Eintracht Frankfurt's win against Kaiserslautern. (Photo: Baader)

He played 421 games for Eintracht Frankfurt. In the USA he will try to achieve the same success off the park as his Frankfurt and national team colleagues Bernd Nickel and Jürgen Grabowski.

The team presented Hölzenbein with a golden clock and a silver salver — and he will be taking them with him. Of course he will have to leave the cup behind. Still, as he says: "It was a great farewell present."

Bernd Hölzenbein is not a man of many words. The *Bundesliga* and Eintracht Frankfurt will be poorer without him. And his name will be remembered wherever the round ball rules.

*Walter Gottschick*

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 4 May 1981)